

WEATHER

Jerusalem 15-25
Tel Aviv 15-25
Haifa 15-25
Beersheba 14-28
Dead Sea 13-21

Forecast: Partly cloudy with light winds.

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Neeman: Biggest mistake since Temple destruction

By HAIM SHAPIRO

Finance Minister Yaaqov Neeman yesterday called the decision by the Reform and Conservative movements to go ahead with petitions to the High Court over conversions and religious councils, the "most serious mistake made by the Jewish people since the destruction of the Temple."

Neeman also attacked the Reform movement, accusing its leaders of having rejected Zionism earlier in the century and of abandoning Halacha.

The government said, meanwhile, that it plans today to introduce a bill to the Knesset that would effectively exclude Reform and Conservative members from local religious councils.

Still hopeful for a compromise, Neeman asked Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein to try to convince the court to delay a hearing scheduled for today on the religious councils, to allow more time for Neeman's compromise committee to try to work out a solution.

Speaking at a news conference,

as same-sex marriages. Neeman said, "Is this Judaism?" Neeman also said he is convinced that the way back to unity within the Jewish people is through Halacha, and by forging a unified approach that would encompass all the streams of Judaism.

"There has to be one standard for conversion, one standard for marriage, which is unified and objective," he said.

However, he insisted, the way to unity has to be through dialogue and

discussion, not through court action or legislation.

Yesterday afternoon, when it became clear the Reform and Conservative movements were not going to change their minds, Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi retaliated by convening the Ministerial Committee on Legislation to finalize a draft of the religious councils bill.

Reform and Conservative leaders denied Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's allegations that their decision against delaying court action

means they have succumbed to political pressures.

In a statement, the Prime Minister's Office accused the Reform movement of choosing a path of confrontation and of seeming to be party to efforts to widen a rift within the Jewish people.

In response, Rabbi Ehud Bandel, president of the Conservative Movement in Israel, said that opposition politicians had encouraged the non-Orthodox to continue talking.

See NEEMAN, Page 9

Navy found blameless for raid failure

By ARNOLD O'SULLIVAN

The abortive naval commando raid into Lebanon last month, in which 12 servicemen died, was a case of bad luck with no one to blame.

This was the conclusion of a 52-day internal IDF probe into the September 4 fiasco, conducted by Maj.-Gen. Gabi Ofir, and Brig.-Gen. Ran Galinski, a former head of the naval commando unit.

According to the inquiry, the 16-member force led by Cmdr. Yossi Kurakin, walked into a random ambush. The IDF has not clearly identified which militia in Lebanon was to blame. Both Hizbullah and Amal have claimed responsibility.

Ofir noted that a number of actions, carried out both by intelligence officers and the commando squad itself, were not done entirely according to procedure. But Ofir stressed repeatedly that none of the deficiencies had any direct bearing on the failure.

"We believe that this was an incidental ambush which was set up in the field by the terrorist groups out of fear of an IDF operation and not on the basis of concrete information," Ofir told military reporters in Tel Aviv yesterday.

Ofir handed the report to Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin Shabak and Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai. Copies were also given to families of the fallen servicemen. "We received the report and need time to read it, to examine every word, and to form an opinion," the father of Maj. Maher Degesh, a doctor killed in the raid, told him.

"The intelligence question remains open, even after the report," Brig.-Gen. (res.) Shlomo Ilyia, the uncle of 3PO Itamar Ilyia, whose body is still being held in Lebanon, told him. He added "due to security considerations, the report did not contain much that the family did not already know."

Ofir's committee took testimony from mission survivors and demolitions experts. A model of the ambush was also put together in an attempt to come up with an exact picture of what happened. Pathologists were also consulted to determine whether the commandos died as a result of their own explosives and gunfire or from those set off in the ambush.

The panel said that there is a very low probability that an intelligence leak occurred, but that the possibility could not be ruled out. Ofir said it is unlikely that the force was detected as it approached its target.

He indicated that military intelligence had apparently mistakenly assessed that there was a low probability that terrorists would plant bombs so deep inside their territory.

"The possibility of finding bombs in this area did not arise in general during the preparation of the mission," Ofir said.

Of the six naval officers who received warning letters before they testified to the committee, three — a captain, a commander, and a lieutenant-commander — will have a "note" put in their files signifying



Heated opening for winter session
Labor MKs Yossi Katz (right) and Eli Goldschmidt (left) hold up signs reading 'I am a proud Jew' and 'Bibi is dividing the people,' as the Knesset's winter session opens yesterday. MK Nawaf Massalha (seated) laughs, as a Knesset guard (behind) takes away the sign held by MK Adisu Massala. Story, Page 20

Primakov makes surprise return trip to Damascus

By JAY BUSHINSKY

Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov's sudden decision yesterday to return to Damascus for another meeting with Syrian President Hafez Assad prompted Israeli officials to conclude that "there is movement" on the Syria-Israel track.

Israeli sources did not know whether Primakov, who was set to confer with Assad last night, would fly back to Jerusalem after their talks. That may be determined by the outcome, they said.

Primakov's brusque change of itinerary triggered speculation that the seasoned diplomat, who has substantial experience and expertise in Middle Eastern affairs, may be trying to succeed where his American counterparts have failed: to bring Syria and Israel back to the negotiating table.

Primakov's objective is to reconvene the Syrian-Israeli talks in or near Moscow instead of near Washington, as was the case in previous rounds, according to one source. The source contended that Russian President Boris Yeltsin, who initiated the Primakov mission, is trying to compete with the US as a prime Middle Eastern peacemaker.

Authoritative quarters attributed Primakov's unexpected shuttle to the positions clarified in his meetings with Foreign Minister David Levy and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

See PRIMAKOV, Page 9

Primakov: Arad is dead

Missing IAF navigator Ron Arad is no longer alive, Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov reportedly told Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky in a meeting yesterday.

Primakov later met with Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, but Mordechai said afterward that Arad did not come up during their talks.

"I didn't hear this and this was not a matter which was raised in this forum," Mordechai said. "I'm not aware of this matter."

Ariel O'Sullivan

Dow dives 7.2%

By MARILYN HENRY and news agencies

554-point drop is worst in history

NEW YORK — Wall Street abruptly shut down 30 minutes before the closing bell yesterday, when the Dow Jones industrial average plunged 554.26 points — the largest one-day point decline ever.

It was the first time in the New York Stock Exchange's history that an automatic trading halt kicked in, leaving the market to close at 7161.15; 159 stocks advanced, while 2,995 were down.

Most Israeli shares traded on the New York exchange also plunged, dropping an average of 6.5%. ECI, Nice, and Sciex all fell more than 11%; Teva 8%, and Koor and Tadiran 6%.

The shutdown, the first since "halt" rules were adopted in the aftermath of the 508-point crash of 1987, came at 3:30 p.m.

The fall was a drop of 7.2%, the biggest one-day percentage decline since the 8% drop of October 26, 1987, a week after the crash. But it was nowhere near the 22.6% plunge of Black Monday.

With the Dow still up 11% this year, more than expected at the end of 1996, it was a time for many investors to cash in.

Exchange officials halted trading for 30 minutes when the Dow had plummeted more than 350 points. When trading reopened, however, the dive continued.

Analysts on the trading floor told New York radio stations that they fear the market opening this morning, when panic will have had a chance to set in among investors.

"Don't worry. It's only money," intoned one radio announcer as he reported on the Dow's dive.

The selling spree capped a day of global turmoil on financial markets, touched off by a resumption of big declines in Hong Kong.

US President Bill Clinton was briefed on the stock market developments by Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin, said

White House spokesman Mike McCurry.

"The president has watched and noted the developments of the day," McCurry said. "The president is confident the fundamentals of the American economy are strong... That's what matters most."

World markets, dollar fall, Page 13

In a message transmitted when trading was finally halted, the New York Stock Exchange said business would resume as usual at 9:30 a.m. tomorrow.

The Dow was plummeting while Clinton was at a Washington hotel delivering a speech before the Democratic Leadership Council, in which he credited the country's strong economy and shrinking budget deficit to his administration's policies.

McCurry described yesterday's drop as "a bare fraction of major breathtaking drops in the past," and no reason for panic. "We want everyone to just take a deep breath and think about where we are," he said. "This is a market that has performed amazingly well... so let's just be calm and reasonable."

Hong Kong, whose 10% crash last Thursday sent shivers around the world, again led the way with a 5.8% plunge in the blue-chip Hang Seng Index. It lost 646.14 points to end at 10,498.20 — almost wiping out the nearly 7% recovery it made Friday.

Shares moved sharply lower on the London Stock Exchange. Tokyo's Nikkei stock average also fell, followed by slides in Frankfurt, London, and Paris. Stock prices in Brazil, Argentina, and Mexico saw their biggest single-day losses in several years, and Mexico's peso suffered its worst hit since 1994-95.

Cabinet wrangling over security may delay Levy trip to US

By JAY BUSHINSKY

The projected Israeli-Palestinian negotiations in Washington under the aegis of US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright hinge on tomorrow's special cabinet session in which Foreign Minister David Levy is supposed to be given guidelines.

If the parameters for concessions Israel is expected to make and the commitments to be undertaken by the Palestinian Authority are defined, Levy will be able to leave for Washington in time for talks to begin early next week.

But the possibility of delay caused by

ministerial wrangling over security concerns and other issues could push the diplomatic timetable back to the point where a trilateral session will not be feasible until late November or early December.

This is because Albright is scheduled to attend the World Economic Forum's conference due to open in Qatar on November 16.

Levy conferred with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday on three prospective agenda items on which he wants specific instructions:

- A "time-out" on settlement activity;
- Further redeployment of IDF forces in the West Bank;
- Preparations for final status talks.

"Only after these matters are elucidated will Levy decide about his trip to Washington," said Foreign Ministry spokesman Aviv Shir-On. Asked how long it will take the cabinet to thrash out these topics, Shir-On replied: "As long as is necessary."

Levy was said to have been pleased with the outcome of his dialogue with Netanyahu, but his aides were unable to predict how the cabinet meeting would turn out.

"We discussed several ideas," Levy said. "I hope that they will be crystallized in

final form by the end of [tomorrow's] cabinet meeting. When they are adopted, we will be able to convene the meeting in Washington in a manner that will be fruitful and will inject momentum into the peace process."

Asked about the proposal to establish a "satellite" or "accompanying" Palestinian state (as reported by Yedioth Aharonot), Levy said this is one idea that would be discussed in final status talks.

"But we have not reached the stage at which we can discuss a final arrangement. There are additional things on the agenda today which require a solution," he said.

Knesset to check kidnapping claim

A Knesset committee established to probe the kidnapping of a young girl from a Jewish settlement in the West Bank, is expected to report its findings to the Knesset today.

The committee, headed by MK David Elkann, was set up after the girl, identified as Yael, was found in the hands of a Palestinian militant in the West Bank.

The committee will examine the circumstances of the kidnapping, the role of the IDF, and the actions of the settlement's security forces.

Knesset vote

The Knesset is expected to vote today on a bill to establish a new judicial body to oversee the activities of the security forces in the West Bank.

The bill, introduced by MK David Elkann, would create a new body, the West Bank Security Forces Oversight Committee, which would be responsible for monitoring the actions of the IDF and the settlement's security forces.

The committee would have the power to summon witnesses, request documents, and conduct investigations.

Jordan \$50m

The Jordanian government has offered a \$50 million loan to the Israeli government to help finance the reconstruction of the West Bank.

The loan, which is part of a larger aid package, is intended to help the Israeli government deal with the economic challenges posed by the occupation of the West Bank.

The Jordanian government has said that the loan is a gesture of goodwill and a commitment to the peace process.

NEWS

in brief

Hussein expresses frustration over peace

King Hussein, frustrated by the stalled Mideast talks and enraged by the Mash'al Affair, said yesterday that his outlook had changed three years after signing a peace treaty with Israel. "It was an encouraging start, full of hope, that our peace treaty will be a step towards a bigger deed... a comprehensive peace," Hussein said. "I can't say the climate now is the same as three years ago," Hussein said at a joint news conference with visiting Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

He expressed frustration over the policies of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. *AP*

Court rejects petition on prisoner releases

The High Court yesterday rejected a petition by right-wing activists Noam Federman and Tiran Pollack for the government to publish the names of Palestinian prisoners being released, before they are freed.

Justices Theodore Orr, Mishal Cheshin and Yaacov Tirkal, said they sufficed with the government's reply that the names of those released were made available once the prisoners were freed.

Federman criticized the government for releasing prisoners to self-rule areas where they could stage attacks, rather than deporting them. *Itm*

C'ttee meets at anniversary of Jordan treaty

The third anniversary of the Israel-Jordan peace treaty was marked yesterday at a meeting of the Eilat-Akaba committee which deals with the bilateral relationship in the southern border area. Among the topics discussed were establishment of a joint land-sea rescue system, ecological protection of the Gulf of Eilat, sewage purification, and eradication of mosquitoes and cooperation in sport and culture.

Jordanian committee chairman Fayed Tarawna conveyed King Hussein's good wishes. "From Jordan's perspective, peace with Israel is a long-range strategic goal for the coming generations," he said. *Jay Bushinsky*

Manbar's lawyer cannot quit

Tel Aviv District Court yesterday rejected a request by Amnon Zihroni that he be allowed to resign as the lawyer for Nahum Manbar, who is under indictment for supplying Iran with chemical weapons components. Zihroni said that a document specifying what in the case must be kept secret, issued by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday, severely limits his ability to function as Manbar's counsel. The court disagreed, saying there is nothing in the document which prima facie harms Zihroni's ability to represent his client. *Itm*

Primakov: Russia would be first to recognize Palestinian state

By STEVE RODAN and MOHAMMED NABIS

Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov told a news conference in Ramallah yesterday that his country would be the first to recognize a Palestinian state.

He also called on Israel to "fulfill all its commitments and the Oslo accords, including the Hebron accords."

Primakov said that Russia "still supports the Palestinian people and its need for justice until

the existence of their independent state."

He pledged to "work on all tracks and if an independent Palestinian state is established, Russia will be the first state to recognize it."

Palestinian Authority chairman Yasser Arafat appealed for Russia's help in peace efforts with Israel.

"The peace process has turned a corner and I'm calling upon President [Boris] Yeltsin as a sponsor of the peace process with the US to protect the process and move it forward,"

Arafat said.

Arafat said Palestinian ties with Russia were strong. He thanked Primakov for his support for the PA.

Regarding the uncertainty about next week's planned talks in Washington, Arafat said that the PA was withholding a decision about whether to attend until the Israeli delegation decides.

"We have to wait for the final resolution from the Israeli side to decide if we will go to this meeting or not," Arafat said.

Gush Etzion plans to expand

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Members of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza together with members of the Land of Israel Front Knesset caucus yesterday announced they would establish a new settlement in western Gush Etzion.

Its establishment was approved by the government in 1970, said council spokeswoman Yehudit Tayar, adding that a name for the settlement had been decided upon, but it and the location would be kept secret until the government's stand on settlements is clarified.

The announcement followed an emergency session between settlement leaders and MKs and cabinet ministers.

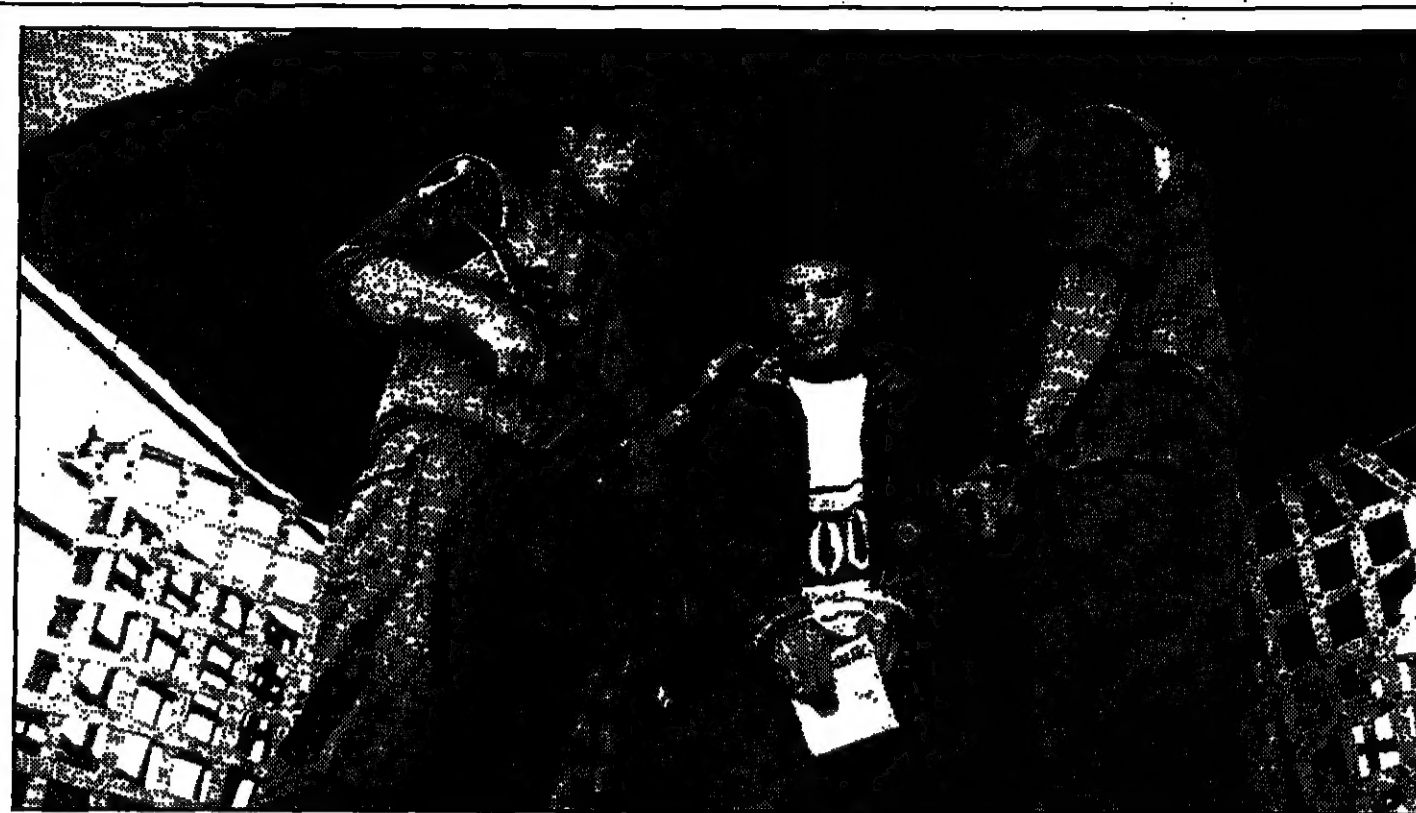
Sources within the council said they are concerned over mounting rumors that in advance of his trip to the US, Foreign Minister David Levy had raised the possibility of freezing settlement construction. The sources said Levy is not willing to travel to the US empty handed.

Meanwhile, settlement leaders say they will hold off work on the new settlement until Wednesday's cabinet meeting. Tayar said that the equipment to start work is ready and waiting.

MK Michael Kleiner (Geshet) of the Land of Israel Front warned that settlement leaders are no longer interested in words or statements, but only in action. "If the government insists on any type of freeze or acts like the former government, then it will be treated as such," he said.

Kleiner hinted that if Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu agrees to a slowdown or time-out in the settlements, the battle would not remain within the Knesset but would spread to the streets.

Meanwhile, Peace Now declared that the council's decision to establish a new settlement is a blatant violation of the law. "Every time the council does not agree with the government, its sole reaction is to resort to violence and law breaking," said Hagit Ya'ari, the movement's spokeswoman.



Freed prisoner

Soldiers in a truck let handcuffed Palestinian prisoners pass as they were released yesterday as part of a swap arranged with Jordan in exchange for the Mossad agents accused of involvement in a botched attempt to assassinate Hamas leader Khaled Masha'al in Amman. In all, as many as 31 Palestinians were expected to be freed yesterday. *(Reuters)*

Mordechai favors 'pre-emptive strike' against missiles

By ARIEN O'SULLIVAN

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said yesterday that under certain circumstances, he would favor a "pre-emptive strike" against long-range missiles and systems that threaten Israel.

Addressing an international conference in Tel Aviv on ballistic missile proliferation in the Middle East, Mordechai said: "If it depends on us, and if it will be strategically possible from a political and security aspect... we shall seek to pre-empt and strike at those systems which threaten to harm us."

But he added: "Naturally this depends on an overall view of the situation... but that is my position."

Mordechai reiterated his warning to Syria, Iran and other states that any missile or non-conven-

tional strike at Israel's civilian population would elicit a "painful and heavy" retaliation by the IDF.

"If the Arab-nations use this sort of weapon against us, then they must take into account that we will use all means at our disposal to retaliate," Mordechai said.

The defense minister said that it is incorrect to view the missile threat on Israel today on the scale

of the Iraqi Scud attacks during the 1991 Gulf War.

Iraq fired 39 Scuds on Israel which damaged hundreds of homes, and seriously disrupted commerce, but few Israelis were hurt.

"They can cause greater harm, particularly if they are equipped with non-conventional warheads," he said. "We have the ability to

harm those who harm our vital interests and they need to expect that we'll extract a heavy price [if attacked]."

Speaking at the conference hosted by the Galili Center for Strategy and National Security, Mordechai said that the threat of missiles aimed at Israel is the most significant existential threat on Israel since the War of

Independence.

"They can hit our most vital assets, the civilian population which we are supposed to be defending," he said.

Mordechai earlier expressed skepticism over Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov's repeated declarations that his country is not helping Iran to build

nuclear weapons or develop medium- and long-range surface-to-surface missiles capable of striking Israel.

Mordechai told reporters that he had showed the Russian minister intelligence documents refuting Primakov's denial that Moscow is intimately cooperating with the weapons program in Iran.

"[Primakov] claimed that the nuclear aid was all for research or peaceful civilian purposes in order to generate energy, etc. etc.," Mordechai said after talks with Primakov. "We determined, according to our information, that the opposite is true."

Mordechai repeated Israel's request for Russia to cease its aid to Iran. He said that if Russia stopped now, then Iran would not likely be able to build surface-to-surface missiles capable of reaching Israel.

'Iran sent 50 arms shipments to Hizbullah'

More than 50 shipments of weapons have been delivered by air from Iran to Hizbullah via Damascus in the past few months, it was reported last night.

Channel 2 quoted diplomatic sources as saying that Syria was

aware of the shipments and the contents which were being flown into Damascus airport and from there transported overland to Hizbullah in Lebanon.

According to another report, some of the recent supplies to Hizbullah have included US-

made TOW anti-tank missiles and improved Sagger anti-tank missiles.

Meanwhile, a Hizbullah source was quoted on Lebanese radio stations yesterday as saying that it is part of the organization's policy to try to kidnap Israeli soldiers.

The unnamed official was apparently responding to reports here that Hizbullah last Friday night, in an operation that was repulsed, tried to snatch IDF soldiers in the Rehav region in the north-eastern sector of the security zone. *(David Rudge)*

Conversion and religious councils bills preoccupy Knesset

By LIAT COLLINS

The Knesset throbbed with activity yesterday in last-minute attempts to find a solution to the conversion bill and religious council bill dilemma. The group of Reform leaders who came in from the US to lobby against the bills rushed between meetings with different factions and groups from both the coalition and opposition.

Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman, who headed the committee seeking a compromise, told reporters there would be no choice but to bring the religious council bill up for first reading because of the decision by the Reform movement to refuse to postpone its High Court petition.

In a closed meeting with the Reform rabbis, Neeman reportedly expressed his sorrow at their decision so strongly that he compared it to the destruction of the Third Temple.

Rabbi Amiel Hirsch said in response that the decision was taken with "heavy heart" after the non-Orthodox had found "there

was no partner on the other side." He placed the blame on the Chief Rabbinate which refuses to accept the Neeman Committee proposals.

He said there was no reason to assume that after another delay, the Chief Rabbinate would agree to the proposals.

The religious councils bill is believed to have a chance of passing since Yisrael Ba'Aliya, with the exception of Roman Bronfman, and the Third Way have said they will not oppose it.

The decision by the Reform leaders not to further suspend the judicial proceedings did not go down well in the Knesset. Yisrael Ba'Aliya leader and Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky said: "They did not play ball."

Alex Lubotzky (Third Way), who has been actively seeking a solution used words like "frustrated" and "disappointed."

Finance Committee chairman Avraham Ravitz (United Torah Judaism) wrote to the prime minister urging him to cancel his planned visit to the Reform convention in the US.

"It's inconceivable that the Israeli prime minister will be the guest of a convention which threatens to harm Israel politically, economically, and socially unless [Israel] accepts its duties concerning the legislation democratically made in the Knesset," he wrote. He said since Netanyahu was not invited to the convention as a private individual but as a representative of the country, he should not go.

Labor Party chairman Ehud Barak told his faction that the Neeman proposals are deserving of support, but added that if no compromise could be found and the bills went ahead, Labor will vote against them. He also called on the Reform to allow more time to find a compromise. "One shouldn't be afraid of a few more days," he said.

Moshe Shahal, who heads Labor's committee on the issue, said the party completely opposes the religious councils bill, which he said is unconstitutional and takes away the rights of a part of the population.

Yona Yahav (Labor) said he fears

the Reform movement has gotten carried away and that its rejection of a postponement "was a wrong step." He continued to promote his bill calling for the abolition of religious councils.

Yossi Beilin (Labor), however, said the Reform leaders were right "because nobody would have changed his mind during the extra time."

At a meeting of coalition MKs, Deputy Defense Minister Silvan Shalom, who coordinates between the government and Knesset, said the religious councils bill could not

come up for first reading this week because today and tomorrow are dedicated to the budget debate.

House Committee Chairman Raphael Pinhasi (Shas) warned him that the MKs from the religious parties would not support the budget if the bill was not presented.

Shaul Yahalom (National Religious Party), chairman of the Law Committee, said it will meet next week to discuss conversion bill. "We were prepared to wait. We invested much goodwill and patience in establishing the Neeman Committee," he said.

Drive Carefully

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LOUIS BRANDER'S SLEET HENRI, by DAVID GLICKER is a tongue-in-cheek history of Jews in America.
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מרכז פרס לשלום
The Peres Center For Peace

AG: Split with US Jews mostly psychological

By ALLISON KAPLAN SOMMER

The split between Israeli leaders and US Jewry over the conversion bill stems from "psychological walls of suspicion," concluded Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein in a speech last night.

"The recurring disputes over who is a Jew — or who is a rabbi — derives from lack of knowledge, embarrassment, and suspicion," Rubinstein said. "When such a lack of mutual knowledge relates to wide populations, this is understandable. It is less understandable when this applies to leadership."

In his speech to the International Conference on Antisemitism, Rubinstein indirectly expressed

support for the efforts of the Neeman Committee.

Rubinstein was the point man on the "Who is a Jew" controversy of 1988, when he served as cabinet secretary in the Shamir government. He recalled that in an effort to resolve whether Reform and Conservative conversions abroad would be recognized by the Israeli government, his efforts led to a proposal "which was very close" that of the current Neeman Committee: the formation of conversion committees made up of rabbis from all streams of Judaism, overseen by an Orthodox religious court recognized by the Israeli rabbinate.

The proposal was ultimately

unsuccessful "because the time was not ripe," said Rubinstein, and went on to speculate that "perhaps we are approaching ripeness now."

The conference was cosponsored by the Anti-Defamation League, the World Jewish Congress, Tel Aviv University's Project for the Study of Antisemitism, and the government's Antisemitism Monitoring Forum.

Abraham Foxman, ADL's international director, said one of the conference's purposes is for Jews worldwide "to unite and declare a zero tolerance level for antisemitism, whether it comes from the prime minister of Malaysia, a mosque in Tehran, a site on the Internet, or a professor in San Francisco."

● To everyone who came to participate in the inaugural event of the Peres Center for Peace, thank you.

● The staff of the Center would also like to take this opportunity to offer our apology to those that attended but were unable to find a seat due to the overwhelming response.

● We thank everyone who joins us in our efforts to promote peace.

Sincerely,
Shimon Peres and the staff of the Peres Center for Peace.

Internet: www.peres-center.co.il e-mail peresins@netvision.net.il Tel: 03-5627060, Fax: 03-5627056

שכונת אל-אח

The Jerusalem Post
Gush Etzion plans to expand

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Members of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza together with members of the Land of Israel Knesset caucus yesterday announced they would establish a settlement in western Gush Etzion.

The establishment was approved by the government in 1970, and the council spokeswoman yesterday said that a name for the settlement had been decided upon. It is the location would be kept secret until the government's decision on the settlement is announced. The announcement followed an emergency session between settlement leaders and MKs and cabinet members.

Sources within the council said they are concerned over moves that in advance of his trip to the U.S. Foreign Minister David Peres had raised the possibility of ending settlement construction. Sources said Levy is not willing to travel to the U.S. camp.

Meanwhile, settlement leaders say they will hold off work on the settlement until Wednesday's cabinet meeting. They said they are prepared to start work on a site and waiting.

MK Michael Kleiner (Gush Etzion) said that the council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza is not interested in words or promises, but only in action. "If the government insists on any type of settlement, then it will be treated as a challenge," he said.

Kleiner hinted that if Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu agrees to a slowdown in settlement construction, the council will spread to the streets.

Meanwhile, Peres has said that the council is not interested in a new settlement. He said that the council is not interested in a new settlement. He said that the council is not interested in a new settlement.

Yotam, the council's spokesman.

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For American Jews

By DAVID GREENBERG

The Jewish community in the U.S. is not happy with the current situation in Israel.

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Rabbi Richard Hirsch, executive director of the World Union for Progressive Judaism, spreads his arms while speaking yesterday about the split between the liberal and Orthodox streams of Judaism.

Deri: Let's quit agency

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Shas leader Aryeh Deri yesterday called on the religious coalition partners to pull out of the Jewish Agency and form their own body.

"Leave the Jewish Agency... in the hands of the Reform Jews alone, let them stew in their own juice, and [we'll] establish a new Jewish agency of Zionists, religious, and national bodies," Deri said on Israel Radio.

Jewish Agency chairman Avraham Burg reacted harshly, saying, "If Aryeh Deri wants, by establishing an 'alternative Jewish Agency,' to strengthen the ties between the Jewish people, I welcome his initiative, but I don't see how he can succeed in this without the cooperation of 70 percent of the Jewish people, while alienating and ignoring them."

"The position of the Jewish Agency and its leader has been known for some time to all Israel's governments, and to its public figures, and it is unequivocally that the Jewish Agency opposes all legislation intended to divide the Jewish people."

Reacting to the apparent break-

down in the conversion bill compromise, Burg said the chief rabbis' and the hardi parties' refusal to reach a compromise with leaders of the Reform and Conservative movements borders on closed-mindedness and wickedness.

"I fear that if the conversion bill is passed, it will be the opening shot in a civil war within the Jewish people," Burg said. He praised Finance Minister Yassov Neeman's efforts to reach a compromise, and said the committee's recommendations had created a historic momentum which could be used to achieve unity among all streams in Judaism, and historic reconciliation for the first time in 100 years.

"It's too bad that it is the willingness of the Reform and Conservative to cooperate with the Neeman Committee has run into a brick wall on the part of the chief rabbis. The leaders of the hardi public are taking full responsibility for a terrible split in the Jewish people."

"An Israel which alienates the majority of the Jewish people will no longer be a source of identity for world Jewry. I fear we will

return to the days of Babylon without Zion."

"Israeli society is struggling today over its Jewish identity. The public wants freedom of choice," Burg said.

The recommendations included a proposal to create a central conversion institute under the auspices of the Jewish Agency and run jointly by the three streams of Judaism. The converts would go there for classes, but the actual conversion ceremony would be done by Orthodox representatives.

The committee also addressed the issue of Reform and Conservative marriages and developed a formula whereby those movements' rabbis could perform marriages here with supervision from the Chief Rabbinate.

IN CONTEXT / HERB KEINON

Are the Reform and Conservative in cahoots with the opposition?

Forget ideology or a religious philosophy. The real reason behind the Conservative and Reform movement's decision yesterday to force the conversion issue now, according to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, is political.

"The rejection of the compromise by the Reform Jews raises the suspicion that political factors were involved in their decision, which are interested in deepening the division within the Jewish people and in the State of Israel as a political tool against the government, instead of attempting to strengthen the unity in Israel," a statement from the prime minister said.

Shas leader Aryeh Deri was more blunt. "They came to the conclusion, and unfortunately politicians from the Left stood behind them, that the clear goal was to bring down the government," he said on Israel Radio. "There is no doubt that the decision is political."

Despite Deri's certainty, and Netanyahu's interpretation, Hebrew University political scientist Avraham Diskin has his doubts. "When the recommendations of the Neeman Committee were leaked out, it was the Reform and Conservative who accepted them, and the Orthodox who rejected them," he said.

The recommendations included a proposal to create a central conversion institute under the auspices of the Jewish Agency and run jointly by the three streams of Judaism. The converts would go there for classes, but the actual conversion ceremony would be done by Orthodox representatives.

The committee also addressed the issue of Reform and Conservative marriages and developed a formula whereby those movements' rabbis could perform marriages here with supervision from the Chief Rabbinate.

Had the ultimate goal been to bring down the government, Diskin said, the Reform and Conservative movements would not have expressed a willingness to accept even these original proposals.

Steven Cohen, a sociologist who has written extensively on American Jewry and teaches at Hebrew University's Melton Center for Jewish Education in the Diaspora, also does not believe the motivation behind the liberal movements' decision to force the issue now is a political one.

"The major motivation is substantive, and directly related to the issue at hand," he said. Cohen also believes that "[Shimon] Peres and [Yitzhak] Rabin could have elicited more understanding from the Conservative and Reform leadership, especially from the Reform which is more dovish on peace policies."

According to Cohen, "a government that seemed to be on the road to peace and needed Orthodox support to conclude a peace agreement with a major Arab partner probably could get the non-Orthodox movements to delay the battle. But this government does not hold out any such promise."

Cohen said that if Labor Party head Ehud Barak votes for the conversion bill to curry favor with the religious parties, the Reform and Conservative leadership abroad "would hold it against him. He would be extremely suspect as a leader of Labor. It would affect contributions. There are certain figures who are major supporters, who would be clearly reluctant to give."

Third Way MK Alex Lubotsky, who has been a major force behind attempts to reach a compromise, also said that he does not think that trying to bring down the government was the

motive behind yesterday's decision.

"A number of people both in Labor and Meretz told me that they think the Reform and Conservative movements made a mistake," Lubotsky said, "and even called the decision a catastrophe."

From the standpoint of the Left, it is not good to bring the government down over religious legislation, Lubotsky said, "because this will just mobilize the religious against Labor. Barak himself has come out in favor of a compromise."

Israel's Reform Movement also realizes the dual-edged nature of a close political affiliation with the left-wing. Recently a proposal to push the candidacy of a prominent Reform representative from Tel Aviv onto the next Meretz Knesset list was rejected by Israel's Reform Movement.

According to a source involved in this move, the argument against having a high profile Reform representative run with Meretz was that it could alienate supporters abroad who are either in the political center or lean to the Right, and that it could hurt the movement's image in Israel to identify too closely with a political party.

MK Eliezer Zandberg of Tsomet, whose party is in the coalition but adamantly opposes religious legislation, said the decision not to give the Neeman Committee more time was not an attempt to bring down the government, but rather a "mistaken" reading that they could gain more by taking a hard-line stance.

"This matter has gone on for 50 years," Zandberg said, "another four months would not be the end of the world. By appearing intransigent on this, they are losing public opinion points."

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HEBREW PRESS REVIEW

By ORLY AHARONI

Efforts to reach a compromise in the conversion bill controversy attracted considerable media attention yesterday.

Writing in *Ma'ariv* Uri Avnery criticized the non-Orthodox factions for going to "war against the Orthodox movement," rather than focussing on the need to separate religion and state.

In *Ha'aretz* Yair Sheleg stated that the Orthodox parties' rejection of the Neeman compromise meant "missing out on a great opportunity from the Orthodox standpoint... to open a historical process which can draw near the Reform movement to halacha, instead of chasing it away."

Questionable visits

Foreign Minister David Levy's refusal to meet with US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and Yasser Arafat's deputy, Mahmoud Abbas in Washington, "is probably Levy's way of hinting his desperation and dismay with [Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu," wrote *Ma'ariv's* Yosef Lapid. He added that Netanyahu's planned visit to the US may also be canceled to avoid confrontations with Jews over the conversion bill predicament. Elyakim Haetzni claimed in *Yediot Aharanot* that Levy's con-

fusion lies in the government's double stances: the formal policies which reflect its ideology and the "real" policies, foisted upon it by Arab-American demands.

"Netanyahu is weak at decision making... he prefers playing a double game in order to avoid making a decision," Haetzni wrote. He also said that the time has come for Netanyahu to decide where the chips will fall.

Knesset convenes

Commentators remarked on the Labor party's agenda to attack Netanyahu on the Knesset podium, as the legislature reconvened after a three-month recess.

Aviezer Golan wrote in *Yediot* that controversy was one function of the Knesset but not the main one. "The Knesset's main purpose is to weigh public problems, to assist the government in forming its policy, and mainly to legislate."

Golan added that it is "doubtful whether the public is interested in seeing a Knesset where everyone yells and no one listens or understands what the issue is about."

"The Knesset's agenda should be not to legislate the conversion bill, which will cause a rupture between Israel and Diaspora Jews," Lapid wrote in *Ma'ariv*.

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NEWS

in brief

Underworld murder suspect rearrested

Ze'ev Rosenstein, 43, from Hod Hasharon, who is suspected of plotting a mob-style murder, was detained in custody for a second time yesterday, after being released to house arrest on Sunday. This followed the Tel Aviv District Court's decision to accept the appeal by police against Rosenstein's release. The court said there appeared to be sufficient evidence to press charges against Rosenstein. *Itm*

Slovenian defense minister to visit

The visiting Slovenian defense minister will be welcomed by Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai with full military honors at the Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv today. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Tel Aviv-Jerusalem train service suspended

Following a derailment near Bar Giora yesterday, train service between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem has been suspended until the end of the week.

There were no injuries in yesterday's incident. Buses took the passengers to Jerusalem.

The line is to be thoroughly checked by railway personnel. The committee investigating another derailment on the same line last week has not yet presented its findings.

According to Israel Railways director-general Amos Uzani, the recent derailments are probably the result of the many years of neglect suffered by this line. Plans for improving the line to Jerusalem have not been implemented because of a lack of funds, he said. *Sybil Ehrlich*

IWN angry over alleged child sexual assault

Members of the Israel Women's Network demanded yesterday that Education Minister Zevulun Hammer suspend or expel a first-grade pupil accused of molesting a female classmate.

The incident, in which a first-grade girl was allegedly assaulted in the bathroom by the pupil and another boy, occurred in a community in the south, which hasn't been identified. The second boy was apparently disciplined.

"It is unacceptable for only one of the girl's attackers to have been removed from the school, while the other boy continues to study in the same class as the victim," IWN head Prof. Alice Shalvi said. *Aryeh Dean Cohen*

Checks of radon levels in schools demanded

The levels of radon at educational institutions throughout the country should be checked, Union of Local Authorities in Israel education committee chairman Shmuel Abuav demanded yesterday.

Abuav's demand follows the death from cancer this summer of a Jerusalem teacher who taught for 17 years at a school where radon levels were found to be 700 times the permissible level.

"Many classrooms throughout the country are located in basements or ground floors [where radon is concentrated]. Thousands of teachers and pupils are exposed to this gas, and the danger to their health is liable to be very real," Abuav said. *Aryeh Dean Cohen*

Enrollment climbs at colleges and universities

Some 142,000 students are registered at the nation's universities and colleges this year, an increase of about 5% over last year, the Council for Higher Education said yesterday.

About 107,000 are enrolled at universities, while 35,000 will study at other institutions. Some 12,000 will take courses offered by the Open University.

Prof. Nehemia Levinson, chairman of the council's planning and finance committee, said the number of college students in Israel has almost doubled in the past decade from 72,000 to 142,000. *Aryeh Dean Cohen*

Ashkelon hosts games for the elderly

Some 5,000 "golden agers" (over 60) are expected to take part today in the first-ever Popular Sports Day for the Elderly at Ashkelon National Park. *Judy Siegel*

Doctors to strike at public hospitals

By JUDY SIEGEL

A 24-hour warning strike by physicians in all public hospitals - except Laniado in Netanya - will put the institutions on an emergency schedule at 7 a.m. today. The Israel Medical Association called the strike to protest against the Treasury's refusal to implement an agreement adding 1,200 extra hospital beds in pediatric, internal medicine and surgical wards and 360 more doctors' slots during the next few years.

In addition, all operating theaters are due to be closed on Thursday, except for emergency surgery, if the government doesn't keep its commitments by then.

The IMA is thus resuming sanctions carried out during a three-week period before Rosh Hashana and suspended to give time for negotiations during the holidays. Health Minister Yehoshua Matza said it was incumbent on the Treasury to carry out

the agreement it had signed, but he nevertheless opposed the strike.

"It's wrong to make this struggle on the backs of patients, who are innocent hostages in this dispute," Matza said.

During today's strike, all but emergency operations will be cancelled in public hospitals; outpatient clinics and diagnostic institutes will shut down; and only a minimum of physicians will be on the wards. Laniado Hospital, which has a no-strike

clause in its employees' contract, never participates in strikes.

Aside from the one-day strike, the IMA has instituted "safe and proper medical practices," in which doctors would not discharge patients before they are fully recovered.

Physicians charge that this policy, which is not ordinarily carried out in public hospitals due to budgetary constraints, will inevitably cause overcrowding and prevent new admissions.



Martin Luther King?

Zo Artzenu supporters demonstrate yesterday outside the Jerusalem Magistrate's Court, which heard sentencing arguments in the sedition case against the group's leaders Moshe Feiglin and Shmuel Sackett. The court postponed sentencing to November 11. (Text: Eilat Wohlgemuth; Photo: Bryan McBurney)

Infighting mars jubilee planning

By BAT-SHEVA TSUR

Unless there is a Hanukkah miracle, Israel's fiftieth anniversary celebrations will not kick off as planned on the first night of the festival of lights.

The celebrations were due to start with a special festive candle-lighting ceremony by President Ezer Weizman at Beit Hanassi in Jerusalem to be followed by similar ceremonies in other parts of the world. But continued infighting between the various government and public bodies set up to plan the festivities has left all the proposals in the air, only half a year before Israel turns half a century.

The Knesset's State Control Committee, together with State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat, convened yesterday to hear the sides and decide whether there is room for an official investigation. "This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the unity and achievements of the nation and instead, we have a sad situation of wasted time, energy and money," said committee chairman Yossi Katz (Labor).

Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav (Likud), who has ministerial responsibility for the events, said he had planned to introduce various themes in the anniversary events, but found that he was constantly at loggerheads with the two persons in charge of the non-profit organization dealing with the plans - former OC Northern Command Yossi Peled and Haim Shlitsky, who organized the 1994

peace-signing ceremony with Jordan in the Arava.

Katsav eventually resigned from the organizational position of heading the festival bodies and the position will be taken up by former finance minister Yitzhak Moda'i.

Peled and Shlitsky, who said they resigned a day before Katsav did, drew a gloomy picture of a body unable to function because it had not received the budget it had been promised.

"We were told last January that we would have a NIS 250 million budget," Peled said. "The budget was cut to NIS 120m. Only in June did we see the first sum - NIS 50m, - and that was allocated towards paying rent and salaries with only NIS 5m. earmarked for the events."

"Instead of being a body that planned and executed, we found ourselves wasting our time at economics committees begging for a budget to get started."

Speaking on behalf of the Prime Minister's Office, Moshe Mizrahi, who deals with special events, said that "no lessons had been learned from the 40th or 30th anniversaries... This is a different nation today and the festivities have to be adapted to the times. The non-profit organization was tied down by bureaucratic problems."

On a more optimistic note, Katsav said he hoped that "in two to three weeks" the plans would get moving and that "we will see lots of happy events next year, despite the short time left."

Edelstein: We're heading right way

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein yesterday presented an upbeat picture of efforts being made by his ministry, saying that while a good deal of work remains to be done, "we are headed in the right direction."

He told the Knesset Immigration and Absorption Committee that the drop in immigration from the former Soviet Union, which some had predicted would be as high as 20 percent-25% this year, is "in the process of easing up" and would be only about 11% for the period from January to September.

He said he expects some 60,000 new immigrants next year, and that the number of immigrants may be affected by reports that the US is considering doing away with the refugee status granted to Jews from the former Soviet Union.

A ministry spokesman said that while such a decision has not yet been made, there is some pressure in US government circles in that direction. The US let in about 35,000 Jews with this status last year, the spokesman said.

Immigration through the first nine months of the year was 46,950; 37,300 from the former Soviet Union. A total of about 60,000 immigrants are expected by the end of the year.

Last year 41,700 immigrants came from the FSU of a total of 51,860. During the same period in 1995, there were 45,800 from the FSU, and 55,600 total.

Edelstein rejected claims that the immigrants coming are "old and uneducated," saying that the majority are young people.

Unemployment among new immigrants is 11%-12%, "as bad overall as it is in the worst pockets of Israel," Edelstein said. He said some 50 retraining courses in high-tech fields have been opened throughout the country, training some 600 immigrants. He also pointed to the high success rate of a program designed to create immigrant entrepreneurs. Some 10,000 businesses have been started by immigrants, he said, creating some 30,000 jobs. Of the entrepreneurs, 73% are still in business, and half of the others have opted to try again after their initial business failed.

Some 4,300 housing solutions were found for new immigrants in the past year, he said, adding that "as long as one grandmother who came here in 1990 can look me in the eye and ask me: 'When will I finally have my own place to live,' we still haven't done enough."

Beduin ask for PM's support against Eitan

By BAT-SHEVA TSUR

Leaders of the Beduin community yesterday called on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to come to their support after what they described as an unprecedented and unfair attack by Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan.

"We have given our best to the state and the state has given us nothing," said Hassan Heib, a lieutenant-colonel in the IDF. "Eitan owes his advancement in the army to the Beduin, but when he comes to the Negev, he makes dangerous statements."

In a letter published last week, Eitan - a former chief of staff - warned against the Beduin taking control of state lands in the Negev and questioned their future loyalty in the IDF.

MK Taleb al-Sanaa (Democratic Arab Party) who held a press conference yesterday together with heads of Beduin local councils in the Negev and Galilee, announced that they plan to meet with the various factions in the Knesset to demand equal rights with Jewish local councils.

"If our demands are not met we will begin demonstrating from Sunday outside the Prime Minister's Office," he said.

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China, Russia achieve breakthrough over border

Jiang opens visit to US in Hawaii

By BRUCE DUNFORD

HONOLULU (AP) — A stab at the hula, a beef steak cooked rare and a visit to the USS Arizona memorial at Pearl Harbor. Chinese President Jiang Zemin had a busy day as he began his US visit with a stopover in Hawaii.

In the first state visit to the United States by a Chinese leader in 12 years, Jiang was given a 21-gun salute upon his arrival. More than a hundred people from Hawaii's Chinese community waved American and Chinese flags and chanted "Welcome! Welcome!" at Hickam Air Force Base.

Jiang, whose one-day Hawaiian stopover was a prelude to the more serious business ahead when he meets President Bill Clinton in Washington, said he hoped his visit would deepen understanding between the two countries.

"I believe that through the joint efforts of China and the US, my visit will deepen our mutual understanding, broaden our common ground and promote friendship and cooperation between our two countries, and that China-US relations will enter a new stage of development," Jiang said in a statement issued to the press.

"I will also meet a broad spectrum of people of the US and see with my own eyes achievements the American people have made in economic and social development," Jiang said.

Following the arrival ceremony, Jiang traveled in a motorcade to Pearl Harbor, where he placed a wreath at the USS Arizona Memorial and dropped a floral lei in the harbor.

In Washington, US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said Jiang will get a firsthand look at democracy as Americans speak out about China's human rights record. "I think that they will probably see what America's really like," Albright said. "And if they are not prepared for it, they ought to be because I think that Americans feel very strongly [about the human rights issue]."

Albright, interviewed Sunday on NBC television's "Meet the Press," said that when Jiang meets Clinton, they will cover a "whole gamut of issues, including trade, terrorism and arms proliferation."

But she stressed that Clinton "will clearly raise human rights issues," the area that has most strained relations between the two countries since the 1989 Tiananmen Square crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators. "We have never minced words about how we feel on their human rights records and we will not now," she said.

Jiang is expected to meet with Clinton in Washington tomorrow.

BEIJING (Reuters) — China and Russia will issue a major announcement on demarcation of their disputed border during a visit by Russian President Boris Yeltsin next month. Deputy Foreign Minister Zhang Duguang said yesterday.

"The work of demarcating the eastern section of the border has been a breakthrough," the Xinhua news agency quoted Zhang as saying.

"When President Yeltsin visits China the two sides will issue a major announcement," he said, but gave no more details.

Russia has said full and final demarcation of the 4,300-km. border was expected to be completed during a visit by Yeltsin in early November. A border document would be the first between the giant neighbors.

The exact date of Yeltsin's visit, which would mark the fifth summit between Russia and China, has yet to be announced but Zhang said it would take place in the first 10 days of November.

Kremlin officials have said the trip was planned for around November 9-11.

Most of the long frontier, scene of armed clashes at the height of the rivalry between the two communist giants in the late 1960s, has been agreed and mapped in negotiations that started in 1992.



Chinese President Jiang Zemin (Reuters)



Russian President Boris Yeltsin (Reuters)

agreements, Zhang said.

They would also issue a statement on progress in bilateral relations, he said. Zhang gave no more details.

Moscow and Beijing, which formed a strong political and military bloc in the 1950s, started improving their relations in the late 1980s after two decades of hostility.

They have said they were seeking a "strategic partnership" that would rule out both confrontation and forming any formal alliances.

Chinese President Jiang Zemin visited Moscow last April, after Yeltsin visited China last year.

During Jiang's visit, Moscow, Beijing, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan signed a treaty on troop reductions along the former Soviet-Chinese border, which stretches for more than 7,000 km.

Full details of the deal have not been made public, but it limits land forces, short-range aviation and anti-aircraft defense deployed in a 100-km. wide strip along the border.

Plaintiffs angry as Papon trial delayed again

By LEE YANOWITZ

BORDEAUX, France (Reuters) — French doctors said yesterday that accused Nazi collaborator Maurice Papon had to remain in hospital at least two more days, forcing a further suspension of his trial for crimes against humanity.

Judge Jean-Louis Castagnede ordered a separate check on the condition of the 87-year-old French former cabinet minister after the Haut Leveque hospital near Bordeaux said he was not fit to attend the hearings until tomorrow at the earliest.

"A check of the condition of Mr. Maurice Papon carried out this morning does not allow him to attend the hearing today and tomorrow," a hospital statement said.

Papon, who was taken to the hospital with a serious bout of bronchitis last Thursday, would remain in the cardiology unit and a fresh health check would be made tomorrow.

Castagnede appointed Paris Prof. Rene Pariente, one of

France's top lung experts, to carry out separate checks on behalf of the court and report by today when Papon, who had triple heart bypass surgery last year, would be able to return to the courtroom.

Papon is accused of ordering the arrest of 1,560 Jews from the Bordeaux region for deportation to death camps during World War II, when he was a senior civil servant in the pro-Nazi Vichy regime.

He has denied the charges and says he remained in his position as secretary-general of the Bordeaux prefect's office at the request of the anti-Nazi Resistance.

"He may be really ill, but if he had been in custody in hospital he would not have been ill, drunk taken walks at midnight, drunk freely with his meals and smoked like a chimney," a lawyer for the civil plaintiffs said.

Relatives of Jews Papon is accused of helping to deport are still reeling from Castagnede's decision early in the trial to release Papon rather than hold him in hospital between hearings.

The further suspension of the three-week-old trial, after hearings

were canceled on Thursday and Friday last week, upset the schedule of witness testimony and angered lawyers.

"I say it loud and clear: this is a defense strategy," said Alain Jakubowicz, a lawyer for the civil plaintiffs.

Lawyer Gerard Boulanger, who took the first legal steps against Papon in 1981, feared that his attorneys were trying to make the trial run into January, forcing a 10-day holiday break before the final defense arguments.

"The jury would then only retain the defense's final argument," he said.

The trial cannot continue unless Papon is present because under French law a suspect may not be tried in absentia unless his absence is voluntary. The trial began on October 8 and is due to continue until December 23, when the verdict is expected.

Historians had been scheduled to start testifying yesterday, with American Robert Paxton, an expert on France's wartime Vichy government, taking the stand. Castagnede asked Paxton, a

Columbia University professor who traveled from New York, if he could stay until next Monday. Paxton said it would be "difficult but not impossible" to stay after tomorrow.

Paxton is due to explain how the Vichy government assisted the Nazis in their plan to exterminate the Jews.

Valery Giscard d'Estaing, who was president of France in the 1970s when Papon served as budget minister, was asked to testify for the defense but declined, telling the daily *Le Monde* in an interview that he had no disclosures to make.

Giscard d'Estaing, who was 18 years old when the war ended in 1945, said the world was watching the trial for an admission that France was guilty of the crimes of Nazi Germany, but it should not get one.

"I reject the comparison that is being made with Germany."

"The Germans shaped their history. The French people suffered occupation by a foreign army which was imposing its rule," he said.

The wrong target

There's hypocrisy — and then there's politics. Washington condemned the visit of South Africa's Nelson Mandela to Libya, at the same time busily preparing a mass of red carpets for China's President Jiang Zemin.

Col. Muammar Gaddafi is no one's favorite dictator, especially since his adamant refusal to hand over his terrorists suspected of bombing Pan Am Flight 103 nine years ago.

But if nobody has yet been put on trial for that crime — neither has anybody been put on trial for the bloody massacre of Tiananmen Square, for which China's present leadership was collectively responsible.

Strip away the politically-correct strait-jackets and it was all right for Mandela to go to Libya, and for President Bill Clinton to welcome President Jiang.

Mandela went because it is typical of the man to be loyal to those who were his friends when he needed friends — when he was left to rot in an apartheid prison for more than a quarter of a century.

under pressure. He has demonstrated that he feels the same way about his debt, not only to the likes of Gaddafi and Yasser Arafat personally, but to everyone who was steadfast in his people's years of struggle — whether they were ordinary Libyans, Africans and Palestinians abroad, or Jews and white liberals at home.

Like Yitzhak Rabin and Benjamin Netanyahu, Mandela indeed has shaken Arafat's hand. Who will say Netanyahu or Ehud Barak will not one day grasp Gaddafi's too, if it proves expedient?

As Mandela arrived for this past week-end's biennial Commonwealth Summit in Edinburgh, Scots seemed more curious as to whether Mandela had made any progress in persuading Gaddafi to release the bombing suspects for trial.

Apparently not — but that may not be the last word. There is a growing feeling that maybe Britain should accept having the two Libyan suspects tried at a neutral venue. London and Washington, not unreasonably, insist either on Scotland — the scene of the crime, or the United States — as the plane was technically on US territory carrying mainly US citizens.

In any case, he left again last night for a return trip via Gaddafi, so it is clear he is actively trying to break the impasse. And despite the frothy fuss over his journey to a country under United Nations sanctions, it was clear the world's respect for Mandela has survived.

He shared with British Prime Minister Tony Blair star billing at a remarkably successful (for a change) four-day Commonwealth summit.

His country will host the next, late in 1999, but South Africa will have its presidential elections before that.

"My country at least will have the honor of hosting the Commonwealth," said Mandela. "As for me, though, I might be standing on the roadside with a placard saying 'Please help me, I am unemployed.'"

It was vintage Mandela, and the hall rocked with laughter. Gaddafi or no Gaddafi, the world would still forgive him almost anything.

Column One



Thomas O'Dwyer

Yadda Yasser

Many Israelis have also been tut-tutting about Mandela. That's a lot more than used to tut-tut about many of their own officials fawning over the bloody Romanian Nicolae Ceausescu, or creepy South African — and South African — generals.

Nor should we easily forget the unseemly official excitement and media hoopla over a possible rapprochement when the same Gaddafi, in one of his bouts of illogical eccentricity, sent pilgrims through Israel a couple of years ago.

Mandela may be either as cunning as a bushveld fox, or more than a bit naive and innocent after all his years in jail — but it is indefensible to accuse him of giving Gaddafi's system a stamp of approval.

"Those who say I should not be here lack morals," said Mandela in Tipoli. "I am not going to join them in their lack of morality."

Mandela spent 27 years in jail rather than abandon his principles

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Edelstein: We're heading right way

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Absorption Minister Yehuda Edelstein yesterday presented a bleak picture of efforts to absorb immigrants, saying that while a good deal of work remains to be done, "we are headed in the right direction."

He told the Knesset Immigration and Absorption Committee that a drop in immigration from the former Soviet Union, which some predicted would be as high as 15 percent this year, is a process of easing up as the number of immigrants is expected to be only about 110,000 for the period from January to September.



American werewolves in Washington

Vice President Al Gore and wife Tipper pose in their Halloween costumes last night at their residence in Washington where the couple hosted a Halloween party. (AP)

The great wall of steel

While Beijing contends that unrest in the northwestern regions has stabilized, it calls on China's Moslems to fight separatism

By JANE MACARTNEY

KASHGAR, China — In China's westernmost city of Kashgar, hundreds of mourners filed into the Aitka mosque to bid farewell to Abdul Mili, remembered for his part in an anti-Chinese rebellion in the 1940s.

Mili, 65, had died during the night and was buried within 24 hours in accordance with Moslem law. He was guaranteed a solemn send-off in China's second largest mosque by his position as a government official and as a veteran of the 1946 Three Districts Revolution against the ruling Nationalists that was co-opted by the Communists, who were then in opposition.

Recent uprisings in the western Xinjiang region against rule from Beijing have been met with less warmth by China's Communist rulers. Ringleaders and participants have been swiftly executed or jailed.

"The situation is now very stable," said Liu Yushen, head of the Foreign Affairs Office of the Xinjiang Autonomous Region.

"Relations between the Han and the minorities are very harmonious; there are no major problems in living and working in peace," he said.

Ethnic Han Chinese account for about 38 percent of the 16 million people in Xinjiang. The rest are Turkic-speaking Uighurs and other mainly Moslem minorities.

Not all are happy with Chinese rule, officials say.

"But these are a very small minority," said one official in the town of Khotan.

Khotan was rocked by bloody riots two years ago when some 800 people protested against the removal of a charismatic *mullah* whose speeches were drawing huge crowds.

The town of Kashgar has also seen anti-Chinese unrest in the past but for the moment seems relaxed.

The great Sunday bazaar in Kashgar sees thousands of Uighurs gather to market their produce and to sell and buy livestock. One Uighur cloth merchant sitting cross-legged among his colorful wares looked amazed when asked whether he disliked his Han Chinese rulers.

A young Uighur hammering molten gold into earrings over an ancient anvil shrugged and smiled at a similar question. "My business is good, I am happy," said another artisan selling musical instruments in the old city.

Any police or military presence is extremely discreet in Kashgar and Khotan or in any of the smaller trading towns along the southern Silk Road that runs between Xinjiang's Taklamakan desert and the Kunlun mountains.

There is little sign that Beijing is using the army as a force to intimidate its unruly Moslem minorities. The only overt indications of

trouble are tattered propaganda banners strung across roads in small market towns.

"Fight against violent crime and oppose separatism to protect the motherland," reads one banner written in both Chinese characters and Uighur Arabic above the main road in the trading town of Yarkand.

Xinjiang's Han Chinese Communist Party leaders have called on the region's people to erect a "great wall of steel" to fight separatists and to crack down on those who use religion to foment unrest.

Last February, anti-Chinese riots in the town of Yining on the border with Kazakhstan left nine dead and 198 injured. In May, eight people were executed for the planting of home-made bombs on buses in the regional capital Urumqi. The explosions were timed to coincide with the funeral of the late leader Deng Xiaoping.

Officials say the problem is not one of ethnic tension but of political misunderstanding among the uneducated, who are easily manipulated by Uighur activists operating from abroad. "They have a political aim to subvert China, and they use religious slogans and the ethnic issue to attain their goals," said Liu.

China frequently blames foreign forces for stirring up unrest within its borders — although Beijing stops short of identifying any single country.

Officials in Xinjiang cited neighboring Pakistan as well as Saudi Arabia, where the fundamentalist Wahabi school would be a likely group eager to support what they might see as fellow Sunni Moslems beleaguered by secular Chinese rule.

"The Moslems in China are seen as the last Moslems under Communism, and they are increasingly receiving world Moslem attention," said Dru Gladney, senior research fellow at the East-West Center and professor at the Asian Studies Program at the University of Hawaii.

Gladney, an expert on China's Moslem minorities, said there was little likelihood the Uighur militants could mount a real threat to secede from China, although they may be able to influence Beijing's international image and destabilize local areas.

Religious leaders in Xinjiang

bristle at the suggestion that Islam could be involved in the anti-China movement.

"Those who believe in Islam would never take actions that would split the country, killing

people and stealing," said Imam Tsadik Kara Haji, 60, head of the Aitka mosque and deputy director of the state-sponsored Kashgar Islamic Association.

"Those involved in splittist activities do not understand Islam," he said, citing the attempted assassination in May 1996 of his colleague Aronghanaji, top leader of Xinjiang's Moslems, as the 73-year-old imam strolled to prayers in Aitka mosque.

Aronghanaji's assailant had been executed, the imam said, pointing a finger at his forehead to mimic the firing squad.

Asked if he feared a similar attack by extremists who may regard him as a collaborator, the white-turbaned imam shrugged. "We believe in destiny. Who knows? But we are not afraid." But he may have reason to fear.

Behind the air of calm, behind the overt bonhomie between Uighurs and the Han Chinese who cannot even speak their language, there flows a frostier undercurrent.

"I can speak Chinese but I don't like to, no one here does," said an elderly Uighur as he sat cross-legged sipping tea in Kashgar. "The Han don't like us and we know it. And we don't like them." Some Uighurs complain that the Chinese broadcast their morning and evening news bulletin through blaring loudspeakers to coincide with the Moslem call to prayer.

Others describe a feeling of oppression.

One wealthy merchant who has clearly benefited from China's policy of reform illustrated his discontent by placing an ashtray in the center of the table and marking a circle around it with his finger.

"This is the Uighurs, surrounded by the police," said the businessman. "The Han Chinese should get out of Xinjiang." He even dared to mention the unmentionable — the desire among Uighur militants to set up an independent "East Turkestan" in Xinjiang.

"But if you call Xinjiang 'Turkestan,' then the Chinese will arrest you," he said.

Uighurs voice anger that jobs and opportunities are going to the Han Chinese pouring into the region from interior China. The fact that few Han Chinese, even those born in Xinjiang, bother to learn to speak Uighur is another irritant.

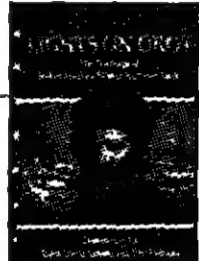
"To resolve the ethnic problem, we must do two things," said a local Han Chinese official. "We must boost economic development, and we must have mutual respect." (Reuters)

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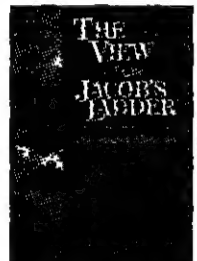
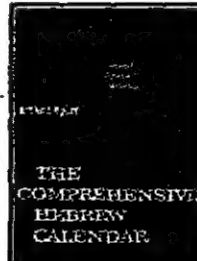
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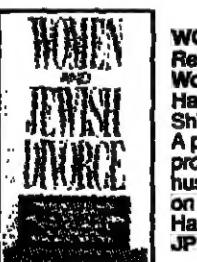


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VISIT US ON

Voyeurism on display

By KAREN TAYLOR

VIENNA — The death of Britain's Princess Diana has given the work of a group of young Austrian artists a sudden and almost uncanny relevance.

In an exhibition called "Paparazzi," the artists reveal the psychological dynamics that come into play when the photographic trophies of celebrity hunters hit the press, catering to readers' craving for authentic voyeurism.

Paparazzi photographers on motorcycles raced after a Mercedes-Benz limousine carrying Diana as it sped toward a tunnel in Paris on August 31. Moments later, the car crashed, killing the princess, her companion Dodi Fayed, and driver Henri Paul.

The artists, known by their collective name of G.R.A.M., worked on the Paparazzi project for a year before its opening this month in Vienna coincided with media discussions in the aftermath of the high-speed car crash in Paris.

"We were shocked when our work was overtaken by reality," said Martin Behr, speaking for the artists' collective.

The four members of G.R.A.M. spent half a year in Los Angeles photographing neighbors and passers-by. These snapshots of everyday life were visually attuned to resemble paparazzi photography.

Blurred, coarse-grained and lacking composition, the pictures have the power to turn neighborhood rituals into incriminating material.

"We enable an unedited view of the border zones of life, such as sexuality. Our images intensify clichés so that the observer immediately associates mysterious goings-on with the pictures," Behr said.

G.R.A.M. invites the visitor to try out the role of a paparazzi. Binoculars afford a closer look at photographic scenes hung at a dis-

tance. Yet the images remain slightly out of focus, revealing a jeans-clad body thrown over the front seat of a car, a moment of intimacy between two women, or a stolen kiss.

In another sequence, five blurred shots snapped from a hidden vantage point trigger a suggestive chain of associations.

A young woman in a scanty summer dress leans over the bonnet of a parked car, exposing her thighs. Stepping back, she appears to wait for a signal from inside. The driver's seat is shadowed in contrast to the bright sunlight of the street. Taking a closer look at the photo series, the visitor notes that the car may in fact be empty. But a few simple signals have sufficed to set off an emotionally charged film in the mind — and to "expose" the woman.

Given that in reality she was the object of an artist's and not a paparazzi's lens, the potential prostitute was probably just a woman checking the window of her own automobile.

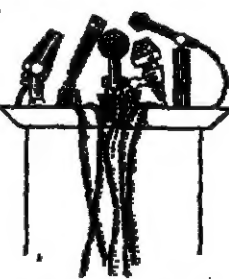
"Our intention is to make the observer a voyeur," explained Behr.

He said G.R.A.M. had considered postponing the exhibition after news of Diana's death, but then decided to go ahead.

"We don't consider paparazzi bad as such," French investigators say it appears that excessive speed and alcohol were to blame for the crash of Diana's limo rather than pursuing paparazzi.

In the words of G.R.A.M., modern people are "reality-junkies" addicted to increasing doses of authentic voyeurism in an age where images can be technically faked with ease.

Paparazzi are simply players in a game that media experts describe as "the end of privacy," according to Behr. (Reuters)



Media Update

מכאן התחיל

The Islamization of Dagestan

The Sudanese way

By MATTHEW BIGG

By VANORA BENNETT

MAKHACHKALA, Russia — Prayer beads click on the street again and newly built mosques rise into the sky. Russia's Moslem south is in the throes of a religious revival, and would-be leaders are lining up to bring the faithful back to God.

Where just a few years ago red flags and the bearded image of Lenin sprouted from every public building here, now the flags are Islamic green and the iconic bearded face on the banners is that of the region's holy warrior-hero, the 19th-century Imam Shamil.

The public renaissance of their faith and traditions, after decades of Soviet repression, is a source of innocent joy to most people in the Russian republic of Dagestan, near the Caspian Sea.

"When I was a child, everything about religion had to be kept quiet," said Timur Dzhabarov, 26, a journalist. "You'd say things like, 'Have you washed yet today?' to your sister, when you were really talking about praying. That wasn't long ago. But, thank God, it's all over." But the new Islamic fervor is also starting to become a source of worry, playing on Russia's fears that militant fundamentalism could seep in through its southern border and destabilize an already volatile frontier region.

Some Dagestanis fear that their leaders are peddling religion like a once-banned drug to distract public attention from the republic's high crime rate and faltering economy. Others worry about increasing rivalries between the men who want to control the religious reawakening. Still others fret about the harsh influence of a new fundamentalist movement imported from Saudi Arabia.

Moslem separatists in war-ravaged Chechnya, on Dagestan's border, are adding to the concerns of moderates with their overtures to the faithful of Dagestan to join up in a "single spiritual space," a suggestion sure to anger the region's powerful overlord, Moscow.

"What's going on now is the overidealization of Islam," said Garun Kurbanov, head of the cultural faculty at Makhachkala University. "We seem to be going straight from one mono-ideology — worship of Lenin — to another." It's only politically correct to take Islam into account, he said. "Ten years ago, most people in Soviet Dagestan would have called themselves atheists, at least in public, although many quietly believed in private. Now 90 percent of people say they're Moslems, although it's my opinion that only half of them are really convinced believers and the rest are waverers on the edge of faith or just followers of fashion."

For many Dagestanis, taking refuge in religion is a relief from the chaos in other parts of their post-Soviet lives.

In Makhachkala, unemployed youths loiter, smoking, on street corners outside crumbling apartment blocks. Nervous hotel staff operate from behind iron grilles, guarded by gunmen. Middlemen charge would-be students bribes of thousands of dollars apiece to sign up at the university.

Crime rates are higher than in other parts of Russia. After a 21-

month war between the Russian army and the Chechen separatists, the whole region is awash with guns. Soviet-era factories here have shut down, and the local economy now runs at least in part on illegal trade in caviar, oil and guns, and on dubious import-export business among Russia, Turkey and the Middle East. Political assassinations are regular events.

Public debate as reported in the

Dagestan's respected official cleric, is opposed by flamboyant Nadyrshah Khachilayev, one of a family of tall, bearded brothers who have risen to prominence in post-Soviet times. Another brother, Magomed, is the fisheries minister. Nadyrshah, who says proudly that he met Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan and boxer Mike Tyson during a recent visit to Chicago, is the founder of the

The mufti said he summoned Khachilayev for a "necessary" three-hour dressing-down after reading the article, demanding he withdraw it.

Quarrels between Moslem leaders apart, the bigger issue of resurgent Islam in the south makes Moscow nervous. The south's history is one of violent religious-political wars between Moslem guerrillas and Russian armies.

might — as it did last century — join forces with separatist Chechnya and fight together to escape Russian rule.

Movladi Udogov, Chechnya's deputy prime minister and information minister, added to those fears by bringing together 35 Dagestani and Chechen Islamic groups in Chechnya in August. They established an Islamic Nation movement whose aim, Udogov said, was to reunite Chechnya and Dagestan.

But few people in politically quiet Dagestan are keen to repeat the Chechen experience. Chechnya lost 80,000 people under attack by Russian troops from 1994 to 1996, and the rebel republic's postwar experiments with Shari's law — including public floggings and televised executions — have caused horror in Russia.

Dagestan's Communist-led government is eager to avoid offending Russia and drawing retribution.

The most pressing religion-related worry of all, for phlegmatic city types in Makhachkala, is the quiet rise of the fundamentalist Wahhabi movement from Saudi Arabia. Unlike the folksy Islam of southern Russia — a type of Sufi mysticism — this movement is purist, radical and, say its opponents, dangerous.

Conflict between Wahhabis and traditional Sufi believers hit the headlines in Dagestan in May, when 1,000 supporters of the rival sides clashed in the central village of Karamakhi. Three people were killed.

The village, it turns out, was well supplied with weapons, although no one could say from where.

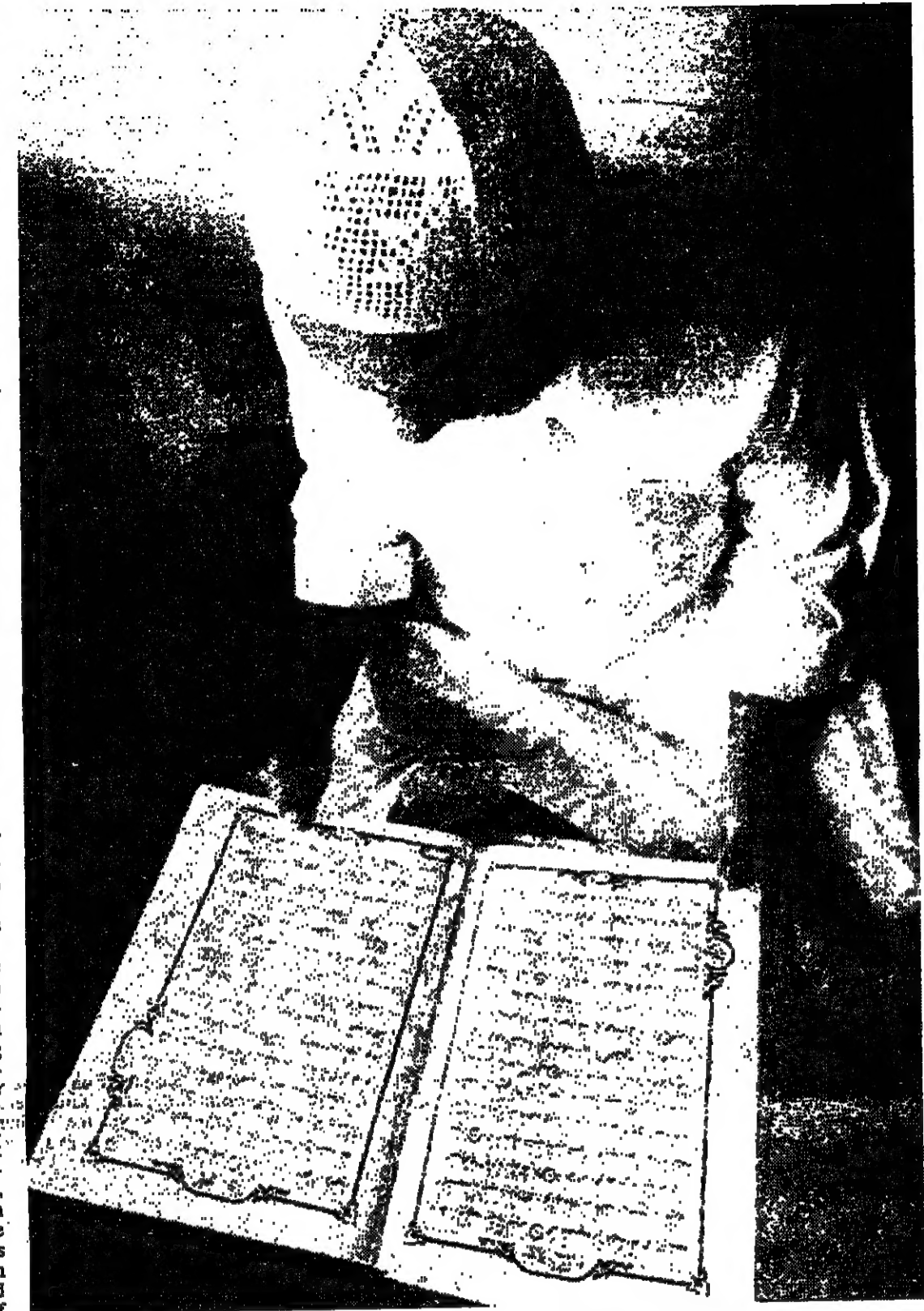
Wahhabi violence has also been reported in Chechnya. Khasanbek Yakhyayev, a *mullah* in the Chechen capital, Grozny, was gunned down outside his home in June. His killer, later slain by Yakhyayev's relatives, was a Wahhabi believer angered by the mullah's recent denunciations of Wahhabism.

Over the years, the Moslems of southern Russia formed small Sufi worship groups, based on families and clans; each followed a charismatic leader. This resistance-cell structure helped them survive Czarist and Soviet repression. When their leaders died, worshippers made mini-pilgrimages to graves, leaving behind reverent marks of respect — handkerchiefs tied to trees or wishes for a happy future — at what quickly became shrines.

But Islam does not allow priests or shrines, just a direct dialogue with God. "The Sufism practiced here is more like Christianity than Islam, with its cults and saints," said Mohammed Shafii, a soft-spoken Wahhabi spokesman. "It's taken on a form which shouldn't exist in Islam." The Wahhabis' ostentatious piety does not impress Makhachkala's sophisticates. "I can't see why they think that growing long beards and wearing their trousers three inches too short makes them holier than everyone else," said one suspicious academic in his 40's.

"They're kids dressing up as devout Arabs. This is not our tradition. It's time they grew up. And where," he added uneasily, "did they get those guns from in Karamakhi? And whom will they turn them on next?"

(Los Angeles Times)



For many Dagestanis, taking refuge in religion is a relief from the chaos in other parts of their post-Soviet lives.

(Ariel Jerolimski)

meek local media focuses on "safe" questions about religion: whether good Moslems would accept the idea of putting up a memorial to Imam Shamil, or how best to celebrate this year's 200th anniversary of the warlord's birth.

A quarrel over the direction of Dagestan's religious movement is splitting public opinion and undermining the mufti's authority. Saidmukhammad Abubakarov, two-year-old Russian Moslem Council.

In July, Khachilayev used the Moscow and local media to denounce Dagestan's other Moslem leaders and tongue-lashed traditional village sheikhs who quietly practiced their faith in Soviet times, saying they "all went through KGB instruction...and history will show how many are also British spies."

Last century, Shamil, imam of Dagestan and Chechnya, led his followers on a 30-year holy war against Russian colonial rule, spurred on to resistance against impossible odds by their belief in freedom and God.

NAIROBI — Rebels in Sudan have come a long way since they started fighting the government in the years before independence in 1956, converting a secessionist agenda into a complex package of goals, regional experts say.

Yet in the minds of many Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) commanders, the struggle against Khartoum remains a simple one.

"They (Khartoum) see it as a war between Christians and Moslems. We see it as a freedom struggle," Thomas Cirillo, commander of the SPLA's preparations to take the southern capital Juba, said earlier this month.

Officials of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), the SPLA's political wing, said self-determination for the south would top their agenda at peace talks due to start in the Kenyan capital on October 28 (Tuesday).

The talks are organized under the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), a grouping of seven regional states including Sudan and chaired by Kenya.

The SPLA will be going in for

Garang, a man of wide political contacts after nearly two decades of fighting and diplomacy, cuts an impressive figure as the SPLA's military leader and its most articulate advocate.

The SPLA argues that long-standing discrimination by the north against Christians and southerners underlies their war. Above all, its leaders wish to resist the imposition of Moslem sharia law throughout the country.

Some SPLA commanders, predominantly black Africans, refer to their northern adversaries as "Arabs" and are fired by stories of religious and ethnic persecution by the north. In one example, an SPLA garrison at Kalipapa on the Juba front reported rescuing a 13-year-old girl who said she had been taken captive by a northern family in 1995 and later abandoned.

"Finding this girl is significant because she is a southerner and the Arabs want to take children and make them slaves or train them to fight against us," Lieutenant Natalino Losuva said.

Yet critics accuse the SPLA of

Is the civil war about ethnic-religious issues or freedom?

self-determination and democracy, not only for south Sudan but for the whole of Sudan — a secular democratic state," said Bethuel Kiplagat, a former senior Kenyan diplomat with long experience of Sudan.

After a series of military and diplomatic gains this year the SPLA now stands a reasonable chance of eventually winning some form of self-determination as a concession from the National Islamic Front government, regional experts say.

SPLA leader John Garang insisted last month he did not want to secede from Khartoum and said the organization's goals were self-determination, a secular state, freedom of religion and more autonomy for the south.

domination by ethnic Dinkas and argue that even within its own territory the SPLA has struggled to convince people that the conflict is ideological.

The critics cite as evidence a split in 1991, reinforced in April this year, between the SPLA and former SPLA commander Riak Machar, an ethnic Nuer, who leads a mainly Nuer force in Blue Nile province.

More than 1.3 million people have died through war and famine in Sudan since 1983. Around nine million people live in the south's vast tracts of swampy savannah. The area, described by one aid worker as "some of the least-developed real estate in the world, contains oil, mineral and potential agricultural wealth." (Reuters)

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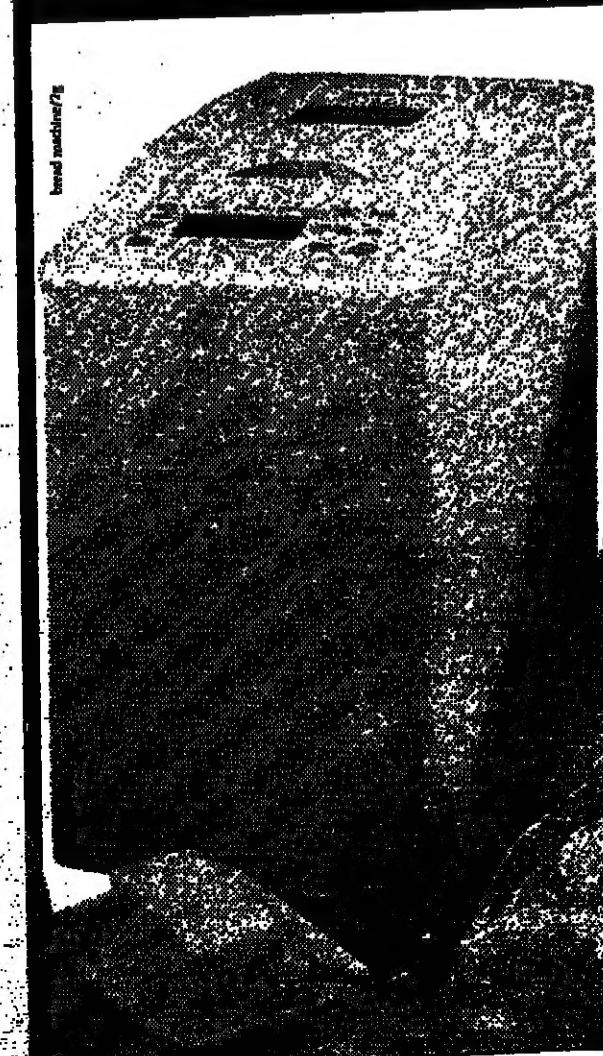
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Save the Neeman compromise

When it comes to destroying Jewish unity, there is one thing that the Reform, Conservative, and Orthodox communities can all agree on: The other side is at fault. Both sides have ample evidence to make their case, but until yesterday, the burden of proof lay on the shoulders of the Orthodox, who seemed to be rejecting the brewing recommendations of the Neeman Committee. But by rejecting the "time-out" requested by Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman, the Reform and Conservative movements have, in one misguided stroke, largely lifted that burden from the Orthodox and placed it on themselves.

The Neeman Committee, as a forum for Reform, Conservative, and Orthodox rabbis to hammer out together a modus vivendi on the thorny issues of conversion and marriage, itself represents a breakthrough in the quest for Jewish unity. Many understandably doubted that it would come up with anything but the narrowest of bureaucratic fixes, such as tinkering with the "nationality" line on the official identity card.

Instead, the committee, after months of hard work and setbacks, developed what could be the beginning of an historic compromise. On conversion, a joint body representing the major Jewish movements would be established by the Jewish Agency to prepare those interested in conversion. The final stage of the process would then be carried out by Orthodox courts specializing in conversion, according to Halacha.

Regarding marriages, Reform and Conservative rabbis would, for the first time, be allowed to officiate at weddings, provided that the Chief Rabbinate provide the two halachically required witnesses.

The unspoken guiding principle behind these arrangements is that Reform and Conservative defer to Orthodox requirements regarding Halacha, while the rabbinate opens a chink in its wall of objection to any form of recognition of its "rival" movements.

On its face, it seems that Reform and Conservative have given in more, particularly on the issue of conversion. The compromise may not include a commitment from the rabbinate to reverse the trend towards increasing stringency in its interpretation of halachic requirements, particularly regarding the convert's future level of observance. Without such a commitment, or at least an implicit understanding, the new arrangement might not

address the existing obstacles to conversion.

It would be a mistake, however, to portray the committee's proposals as a defeat for the Reform and Conservative movements. Though the degree of recognition afforded those movements may seem small, it is exactly the foot in the door that endless fighting in the High Court has not achieved for them.

In the end, it is the Reform and Conservative movements themselves that are responsible for their lack of presence in Israel. The Orthodox establishment has certainly thrown up as many obstacles as possible, but it is far from clear that absent such obstacles, the Israeli public would gravitate toward American-style alternatives to Orthodoxy.

Ultimately, the battle among the movements for the Israeli public will not be won in the courts or in the Knesset, but by attraction through personal example and familiarity. High-profile, politicized battles may be good for publicity and fundraising, but they hardly meet the real challenge of swaying hearts and minds, one on one.

Right now, it is the Reform and Conservative movements that have chosen the political battlefield, rather than give a good compromise that they ostensibly support time to be accepted by the rabbinate. By seeming to throw that compromise out the window, the Reform and Conservative have alienated most of their potential allies against the conversion bill, not only in the Third Way and Yisrael Ba'Aliya, but even in Labor and Meretz.

If these movements wisely back down and agree to Neeman's proposed delay of both the court cases and Knesset bills, the pressure will be back on the Orthodox establishment to accept the committee's proposals. The Labor Party, for one, is saying that it will oppose the conversion bill if, after a time-out of a few weeks, the rabbinate refuses to accept the Neeman compromise.

Jewish Agency Chairman Avraham Burg, in an inexplicable fit of divisiveness, seemed to be almost alone in backing the Reform and Conservative's surprise move, saying that serious fight is better than a bad compromise. Burg and what ever firebrands advised this ill-timed step are wrong: The Neeman compromise is worth fighting for, and that means keeping the battle out of the courts and Knesset as long as necessary.



Loss of innocence

When acquitted by the Tel Aviv District Court, Jerusalem Mayor MK Ehud Olmert commented – half in earnest, half in jest – that, in retrospect, he was glad he had been indicted, since only thus was he able to prove his innocence.

In contrast, in a television interview, former attorney-general Michael Ben-Yair expressed dissatisfaction with the court's decision not to indict Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan. The court, claimed Ben-Yair, had missed an opportunity to "shape norms." Sentiments such as these reflect a dangerous attitude which has taken hold of the State Attorney's Office and the police.

It is not the job of the courts to "dictate norms"; it is the job of the legislature. The thesis which Ben-Yair presented, whereby courts are responsible for dictating norms, is a dangerous concept. In effect, it justifies drawing the bull's eye around the arrow after it has been fired. In Ben-Yair's view, the court must convict a defendant on the basis of norms to be determined during his trial.

Let there be doubt about my own position on this issue: It is both the right and the duty of the State Attorney's Office and the police to uphold the law, follow leads and prepare indictments against criminals. No person is above the law. However, the worrisome phenomenon – especially when involving a public figure – of a person being convicted by the police or prosecution well before an indictment is weighed, is intolerable.

These convictions take place in the media – nourished by police or judicial sources leaking slanted information. These sources utilize the power of the press to denounce the person in public, smear his name beyond repair and often to destroy his career.

Perhaps one could come to terms with this phenomenon retroactively, in cases where the suspect ends up being convicted in court. In such cases, the suspect is "only" convicted twice. But

RUBY RIVLIN

what about the other cases – increasingly routine – in which the suspect is never even indicted, let alone convicted?

Examples of this abound. Eitan is now agriculture minister, rather than internal security minister, solely due to an indictment which the court determined should not have been submitted in the first place; Yaakov Neeman is not the

Acquittals come too late from the point of view of public figures, whose good name is their main asset

justice minister for a similar reason. And let us not forget the slew of investigations conducted against the director-general of the Prime Minister's Office: Each opens with a great fanfare and a conviction in the media. Yet, so far, all have died in silence.

Acquittals or case closures come too late, from the point of view of public figures, whose good name is their main asset.

THE problem here lies not only in the fact that there are public "convictions" nor in the abnormal situation at hand, in which public figures are considered guilty until proven otherwise (and even then, the court's decision is sometimes unwelcome, as pointed out earlier).

The problem is the lack of courage on the part of the police and prosecution to take responsibility. It is the lack of their desire to make less populist decisions. It is the spinelessness of these bodies – which refrain from making assessments regarding chances for conviction prior to indictment as though it is not their job to do so. Instead, they roll the ball into the

court of the courtroom, not daring to refuse satiating the masses' lust for witnessing public "hangings" of public officials.

From the perspective of the defamed public official, this "hanging" is performed even if a court of law takes him off of the scaffold by way of a verdict. And even if an indictment is not served in the end.

Why doesn't the State Attorney's Office take responsibility? Who is it so afraid of? The various organizations of nitpickers whose leaders make their living submitting highly publicized petitions to the High Court of Justice?

A few months ago I proposed a law that would determine the duty of attorneys to examine the pre-indictment odds for securing court convictions. According to my proposal, a lawyer who submits an indictment without prior examination (defined in the proposed law), and who the court determines should not have submitted the indictment, should bear civil and criminal responsibility with regard to the defendant.

In many countries, prosecutors are graded on a promotion scale based on the percentage of convictions (successes) they secure relative to indictments. This obliges lawyers – if only out of egotistic concerns – to examine the evidence at their disposal with a fine-tooth comb before deciding whether to indict.

Recently the Knesset interior committee accepted my proposal to establish a set of ethical guidelines to which police investigators would be bound. The intention is to forbid manipulative leaks, to forbid publication of the names of investigators taking part in investigations (and who wish to further careers at the expense of famous suspects), and to determine the norms regarding how investigations are conducted. Perhaps this should be adopted for the State Attorney's Office as well.

The writer is a Likud MK.

Chinese fact and fantasy

The mists of conspiracy have been floating over the discussion of US-China policy, but it wasn't until a few days ago that one heard it said out loud. It was spoken by Arianna Huffington at a debate ("Firing Line," Oct. 24) on the question of trading with China.

We have had month after month of public hearings having to do with the financing of the Democratic campaign of 1996, and the stress has been on the Asian presence. All that money directed to the campaign asking for – what?

Huffington says it's obvious. She suggested that what had been bought is the president of the United States and the Congress.

Bought to do what? Bought to ignore the human rights report of the State Department and to continue trading with China under the most-favored-nation clause.

Now Huffington had intimated her approach early in the two-hour debate by making a most extraordinary accusation. It is that Henry Kissinger argues in favor of continuing trade because his consulting firm does business in China. She cited the Disney Co., which retained Kissinger Associates a fortnight ago, allegedly to guide Disney through the Chinese flak over the forthcoming Disney movie "Kundun," which dramatizes the communists' genocidal assault on the Tibet of the Dalai Lama.

Kissinger was floored by the charge and groped unsuccessfully for appropriate words to meet with it in the minute or so left to him in that segment of the debate. He managed to say that a mere 3 percent of the business done by Kissinger Associates relates to China, but Huffington then charged that Kissinger was slow

WILLIAM F. BUCKLEY JR.

to react to the Tiananmen Square Massacre of 1989 because of his commercial predilections on China.

Kissinger did say, in the final few seconds, that he thought it wrong to impute greed after 40 years of policy analysis under academic and public scrutiny. But the audience (of 7,000) roared with excitement at the drama – the

To suggest that US policy is dictated by commercial greed and Chinese manipulation staggers the mind

striking Greek-American writer/activist charging the former secretary of state of selling out to Mammon.

Kissinger, for all his skills as a diplomat, is inept at crowd control in public debates. He might have turned to Huffington and said: If I reasoned about you as you reason about me, wouldn't I venture that the only reason you married that mindless California millionaire was to clutch on to his money, which you did, and then divorce him, which you have done? But I am prepared to assume you had other motives in marrying him. On Tiananmen Square, you are correct that I did not react to the military seizure with astonished indignation. What astonished me wasn't that the army moved into the square, it was that the protesters were permitted for so long to preside over the square – China is not a free

society. When I recommend policies on China, you should be prepared to assume I recommend them as what I consider to be in the best interests of the United States.

What hovered over the scene at the University of Mississippi was the question: Is it conceivable that the deployment of Chinese money is responsible for the dispensation under which our trade policies with China are operating?

My own reaction is: Sure, and Vincent Foster did not commit suicide, Lee Harvey Oswald was only one of the assassins, and Oliver Stone is right, the lid on the true story was put down with the cooperation of the FBI, the CIA, president Johnson and the Supreme Court. And yes, Robert Welch was actually correct, President Eisenhower was a clandestine communist.

The investigating committees have clearly demonstrated that there were a lot of funny-money machinations in the 1996 campaign and that Asian and Asian-related agents were very active. But to suggest that our policy – to continue to trade with China – is dictated by commercial greed and Chinese manipulation staggers the mind. We are talking about a policy endorsed by every living ex-secretary of state, every living ex-national security affairs adviser. To suggest that Henry Kissinger would counsel policy contrary to the interests of his country as he understands them leaves the observer speechless.

How to explain such a charge? In the Huffington epistemology, one would have to find a commercial reason for it.

(Universal Press Syndicate)

I am a Jew

SUSAN HATTIS ROSE

What did Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu mean when he whispered into the ear of the mystic, Rabbi Yitzhak Kadouri, that the Left has forgotten what it is to be Jewish? According to Netanyahu and his spokesman Shai Bazak, this sentence should have been understood in conjunction with his remark about the Left having handed Israel's security over to the Arabs – a problematic sentence in itself.

If indeed that is what he meant, then it is Netanyahu who knows very little of Jewish history. For two thousand years Jews left their security in the hands of God, and foreign rulers, and we know where that led us. It was the modern Zionist movement, under the leadership of the Left (as of the mid-1930s), that said that the security of the Jews could only be ensured through a wise combination of self-defense, diplomacy and trying to seek accommodation with the Arabs – though not at any price.

This was Ben-Gurion's policy and this was Yitzhak Rabin's policy. The Zionist Right always placed emphasis on military power, belittling the importance of diplomacy and rejecting accommodation with the Arabs, if any sort of price had to be paid. Thus, if Netanyahu meant what he said he meant, he once again proved that history is not one of his fortes.

However, anyone who heard the actual recording of what Netanyahu said, cannot but be impressed that he said two separate things: the first, that the Left had forgotten what it is to be a Jew and the second, that the Left had handed Israel's security over to the Arabs.

While I do not wish to go once again into the question of whether Israel's security is better served by means of cooperation with the Arabs or clashing with them head on, I would like to relate to the issue of what it means to be Jewish, if you happen to be secular, which is what I and most of my left-wing colleagues are, and presumably Netanyahu as well.

I AM A Jewess. I am a Jewess according to Halacha because my mother is a Jewess, and I am a Jewess according to the Law of Return, because my mother is a Jewess and I am not a member of another faith. According to Orthodox Jews I am not a "good Jewess," since I observe only those commands that suit my universal-humanistic inclinations. That does not, however, make me any less Jewish than any other Jew.

I am a Jewess. I was born a Jewess and shall die a Jewess, and I do not need Netanyahu to remind me what being a Jew means, for I never forgot. Like many other secular Jews in this country, my Jewishness manifests itself in the fact that my history, my terms of reference, my holidays and my fate are Jewish, and had I lived in Europe in the years 1939-45 I would most likely have ended my life in the furnaces of Auschwitz because of my Jewishness. I am a non-believing Jew, since I do not believe in God – certainly not the God of the Jews as he is perceived by Jewish Orthodoxy. I would define myself as an agnostic.

I am a Jewess who was born in Palestine and lives in Israel – the Jewish state – as of choice. Almost 30 years ago I could have opted for a different life; marrying a non-Jewish man of fine character and personal qualities and impressive professional achievements, and raising children with a very different identity to my own in a peaceful European capital. But I chose not to.

As an Israeli, my identity card states my nationality as being Jewish – and that is also how I feel. Perhaps some day Israel will redefine itself as the state of all its citizens, and then my nationality will be Israeli, though I shall still be Jewish as opposed to Arab. But, for better or worse, that day is still a far way off.

I suspect that if Netanyahu were to give the issue some serious thought, he would conclude that he is a Jew more in the sense that I have just described than in the sense of Rabbi Kadouri, with whom he shares a birthday. However, I also suspect that Netanyahu never really gave the issue any serious thought, and the words he whispered in the ears of the mystic were uttered with the same degree of seriousness and depth as those uttered by a child telling on another child to some passing adult he wishes to impress.

Perhaps at the age of 48, it is time for our prime minister to grow up.

The writer is a political scientist.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

MACCABIAH DAMAGE

Sir, – Nothing has damaged the relationship between the Jewish community of Australia and the people of Israel as much as the Maccabiah and its aftermath. Nothing has affected the perception of how Israel views the Jewish community of Australia as has the appalling lack of responsiveness and sheer footdragging of World Maccabi and the Israeli government in this matter.

I write this open letter to the people of Israel because I believe that most of you felt ashamed that such a thing as the bridge collapse could occur in the first place, and in the hope that you will all urge the government and World Maccabi to take the action that is morally correct and ensure that justice is done.

To date we have had relatively few requests of Israel, made away from the public glare, as we have always been careful to avoid embarrassing Israel, but we have

reached an untenable situation. We are aware that Israel has many concerns and that there are always emergencies and grave problems but we feel that we deserve better. The Maccabiah tragedy should be made a top priority.

We requested a small amount of money as a loan to be repaid when the insurance money arrives. This request was ignored for a long time, before it was finally dealt with.

We requested an analysis of the Yarkon water in order to ensure that treatment of our injured is done on a better informed basis. The authorities again dragged their feet and we ourselves had to take water samples for analysis in Australia.

We have demanded that those responsible for the tragedy – those who built the bridge, those who approved the bridge, those who allowed this terrible incident to occur be identified and charged

and that those responsible be removed from their positions so that such tragedies would not occur in the future.

The Dotan report was released – nothing resulted. We believe that the police report has been concluded and is in the hands of the government.

Why is the government sitting on the report? Why have the results not been released? Why has no one taken or been forced to take responsibility? Why do the people of Israel not insist that their government do the decent, moral and just thing? We expect that the culpable parties be brought to speedy trial. We expect Israel to take the Jewish community of Australia seriously.

DR. RON WEISER
President,
Zionist Federation of Australia.
Sydney, Australia

QUEEN COUNTRY

Sir, – Returning home from New York City just before Rosh Hashana, I can only marvel at the kind of queen country Israel has become. In New York dawn breaks around seven o'clock in the morning and millions of Jews, including the messiahs of Crown Heights work and pray without a murmur of protest. Here we idle in bed because of the end of Daylight Savings Time whilst the sun is up in the sky. If bright daylight can be squandered in such a way, our future looks dim.

STUDYING GEOGRAPHY

Sir, – My fourth grade class is studying geography and would like to know what your region of the world looks like. Would you please help by sending a postcard or picture of what your area looks like? When our unit is over we will have a picture travel guide of many parts of our country and the world. Please send your postcards to Alison Pearl, 1 Green Spruce, Littleton, Co. 80127, USA

ALISON PEARL
Littleton, Colorado.

Haifa. EVELYN DAR-EL

Givatayim.

YAIR NOAM

ALISON PEARL

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

60 years ago: On October 28, 1937, The Palestine Post reported that a large section of the Balfour Forest, some 50,000 of the 400,000 trees, had been destroyed by fire. Arson was suspected in this great conflagration.

50 years ago: On October 28, 1947, The Palestine Post reported that in Petah Tikva a two-story

house was wrecked and two young men injured when an explosion in a second-floor room shook the whole area.

"The Jews of Palestine are prepared to carve their own destiny and they have a well-trained army," Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver told the 33rd Annual Hadassah Convention in Atlantic City.

The UN Ad Hoc Partition

Committee on Palestine split into various working groups while the US served notice that within the next few days it would offer "specific and concrete suggestions" for carrying out the partition of Palestine, including "actual plans for the establishment of governments there."

Alexander Zvielli

مكتبة النخيل

I am a Jew
SUSAN HATTIS ROSE

How Jews fared 'Under Crescent and Cross'

By ABRAHAM RABINOVICH

Once upon a time, in a not-so-distant land, Jews and Arabs lived in harmony. The Jews paid discriminatory taxes, had to wear an article of clothing that set them off from Moslems, had no right of political self-determination, were prohibited by law from building new synagogues or repairing old ones, were required by law to take a subservient role in any business partnerships with Moslems and were, by law, second-class citizens. It was a golden age.

Off the books, the Jews prospered, lived full Jewish lives, built new synagogues and repaired old ones, were generally dominant in business partnerships with Moslems, mingled fraternally with Moslems at various social levels, and enjoyed extensive self-rule.

The land was Egypt — and, by extension, most of the Arab lands. The time was the high Middle Ages, the 10-13th centuries.

Are there lessons that Israelis and Arabs can learn today from that not-bad-at-all experience in coexistence?

No, says Prof. Mark Cohen of Princeton University, not if the aim is to use that history as a base for current policies. The circumstances then and now are just too dissimilar.

Yes, says Cohen, an authority on Jewish-Muslim relations in the Middle Ages, once Israelis and Palestinians have already made peace. This history can cement myths that will be useful in enabling the two peoples to live alongside each other as good neighbors.

Cohen, who has just completed a sabbatical at the Hebrew University, is the author of *Under Crescent and Cross*, which deals with Jewish life in the Christian and Islamic worlds during the Middle Ages. Those were two very different worlds for the Jews.

or poor, was obliged to pay a burdensome head tax to which Moslems were not subject. In addition, taxes on their commercial dealings were twice that applied to Moslems. Members of the minorities were obliged to wear special belts to make it clear to all that they were not Moslems. There were restrictions too on building or repairing houses of worship. In practice, notes Cohen, a professor of Near Eastern studies, these restrictions were honored mostly in the breach by the Moslem authorities except for taxation. "That's money after all, and they took it seriously."

Unlike in Europe, Jews were permitted to own land, both urban and rural. Jews were involved in agriculture as they had been in Babylon as well. A major reason for the difference in attitudes towards Jews in the Moslem world from that in the Christian world was theological, contends Cohen. "Mohammed was not a messiah, he was a prophet. He recognized the existence of other religions. And he wasn't killed. There is no decision for which the Jews could be blamed." The cross was an icon which served as a constant reminder to the Christian masses that Jesus had been crucified, but there was no similar icon in Islam that could serve as an incitement against Jews.

Another factor in the relative acceptance of the Jews was that they were not the only religious minority around as they were in Europe. Christians shared their status with them, which made them less of the "other."

While Jews in Europe were relative newcomers, easily distinguishable, Jews in Islamic lands were indigenous. "For the most part, they looked exactly like the Arabs," says Cohen. They also shared, to a large extent, their cultural milieu. There were largely Jewish neighborhoods but no exclusively Jewish ghettos.



Medieval documents found a century ago in the Cairo Geniza indicate that Jews and Arabs often lived next to each other amicably during that period. Solomon Schecter works on Geniza fragments at the Cambridge University Library in 1898.

which they lived — "Why can't you treat us as well as the Moslems did then?"

In our own time, says the Princeton scholar, this view has been taken up by the Arabs for their own purposes — as an argument against Zionism.

"The Arabs adopted the myth of an interfaith utopia and said that if there is a problem today it is because of Zionism. 'Do away with Zionism, with the state of Israel, and let's return to the halcyon days of the golden age.' In recent decades, a countermuth has been promulgated by some Jewish writers who portray Islam as a persecutory religion from its beginning."

Today the historical issue of Moslem-Jewish relations has political force, notes Cohen. "If you believe that relations have always been terrible there is no reason to trust any Arab today. The right wing favors this interpretation because it supports their political position."

However, the findings from the Cairo Geniza published in recent decades refute such a view, says Cohen. "Islam is not innately tolerant of other religions any more than Judaism and Christianity are," he says.

"But there are theological reasons why Islam's attitude towards Judaism is different than Christianity's. There were also historical circumstances which mitigated this intolerance of Islam."

It is important to be aware today of Jewish-Muslim relations in the Middle Ages, says Cohen, because many people tend to equate Islam with Hamas. However, it is important as well to understand that the political-social situation in the Middle Ages was not comparable to today's. The image of a golden age has little relevance at the negotiating table.

"When peace is made here — and I believe there will eventually be a Palestinian state — it will have to be on the basis of modern geopolitics and in light of conflicting nationalisms, not on the basis of medieval history," says Cohen.

"Peace will be achieved when the Moslems come to terms with the fact that they are not going to return to the medieval situation in which they ruled in Palestine and when the Jews recognize that they are going to have to grant self-determination to the Arabs, who have a claim to it."

"Once the parties are at the point where they not only begrudge each other's existence but actually learn to live together in political and economic symbiosis, then I believe they can fall back on the memory of the past and feel that there is something intrinsic in Moslem-Jewish relations that can give encouragement to a new kind of relationship."

From Cohen's mouth to God's ear.

Are there lessons that Israelis and Arabs can learn today from that not-bad-at-all experience in coexistence?

In the Christian countries, Jews could not own land, they lived in ghettos and occupied very confined niches in the economy, spurned by Christians. They were not indigenous and stood out physically, culturally and as newcomers. Above all, to the Christians the Jews were the despised killers of Christ.

On the face of it, the situation of the Jews in Islam didn't seem all that rosy, either. It was a tenet of Islamic faith that Jews and Christians were less worthy than Moslems and subject to restrictions. Every member of these minorities, rich

Medieval documents found a century ago in the Cairo Geniza indicate that Jews and Arabs often lived next to each other amicably during that period. The Geniza also shows that far from being confined to a few occupations stunted by the majority population, such as moneylending, the Jews in Moslem lands practiced hundreds of occupations and were apparently not subject to any occupational restrictions.

"The marketplace was an interdenominational and nearly egalitarian venue," notes Cohen. "Islamic law permitted

business partnerships with non-Moslems, as long as the Moslems had the dominant role. It was common for Jews and Moslems to go into business together. And we see from the Geniza that despite the law, the Jews were often clearly the controlling partner."

Jews and Arab partners, we see from letters found in the Geniza, trusted each other and were personal friends. Jewish doctors and Jews serving in the upper ranks of the government bureaucracy mingled as colleagues with Moslem counterparts.

Doctors like Maimonides, for instance, took turns with Moslem doctors on the duty roster at hospitals and exchanged medical knowledge and, presumably, gossip. "Everybody knew who was superior, religiously and legally," says Cohen. "The Moslems were. The Jews didn't think so, but they knew the Moslems thought so. Personal friendship was frowned upon in Arab law because the Arab is supposed to be on top. In spite of this, there was a significant amount of mutuality."

Although Islam forbade the construction of new synagogues and churches, such structures are found in towns built after the rise of Islam, clearly in viola-

tion of that edict. Likewise with the ban on repairs to Jewish and Christian houses of worship — the synagogue in which the Cairo Geniza was found had itself been extensively restored more than once.

Jews were forbidden by Islamic law to teach their children the Koran, but copies of a Koran written in Hebrew letters were found in the Geniza synagogue storeroom. Why would Jews have wanted to study the Koran?

"They were interested in Islam," says Cohen. "It wasn't a matter of knowing your enemy but knowing your neighbor. Islam is very close to Judaism, much more so than Christianity, and the Jews felt this." Many Jews were in fact drawn to Sufism, a form of Islamic mysticism. Among them was the son of Maimonides, Abraham, who inherited his father's place as head of the Jewish community. Abraham maintained that some Jews were worthier disciples of the Jewish prophets than were many of his fellow Jews. Some of his congregation, disturbed at reforms Abraham introduced in synagogue practice, appealed to the sultan against these innovations, another instance of symbiotic relations.

Jews felt comfortable in Islamic religious courts to which civil cases were brought. "They were treated with equality there," says Cohen. "There is no evidence in the documents that they were disadvantaged."

The rabbis came to terms with rulings in the Islamic courts even though it is forbidden in Halacha for Jews to go to the courts of the *goyim*, and they accepted legal documents executed in those courts as valid. Maimonides's responsa refer frequently to the interplay of Islamic and Jewish law.

The poll tax was indeed onerous, particularly on the poor. But, notes Cohen, it constituted a precious insurance policy. "If you paid your tax, your personal and property rights and your freedom of religion were protected. Islam was not ambiguous or arbitrary about this. That's the reason Jews were so anxious to pay it and get their receipt."

Differing modern assessments of this period — golden age or golden myth — are colored by the politics and well-being of the viewer. In the 19th century, European Jewish scholars conceived of it, says Cohen, "as a kind of interfaith utopia" and used it as an argument against the Christian societies in

'Peace Flight' Catholics believe in the power of prayer

Hundreds of Roman Catholic pilgrims arrived in the Holy Land this month to pray for peace. But as Judith Sudilovsky reports, not everyone understood their message

Some people are not content to sit back and watch as world leaders attempt to make peace. These people not only feel the need but also the ability to be involved in that struggle on a personal level. And while the international group of 830 Catholics who arrived in Israel this month know that they may not have a direct effect on the conflict here, they believe that with their prayers for peace they are acting as a symbol and a sign for peace. God, they say, works in mysterious ways.

"People believe they can't change the world, that what they do will have no effect, but that is not true," said Alan Ames, an author and healer from Perth, Australia, who has taken part in the two previous "Two-Hearts Peace Flights" to Russia and China several years ago.

"If people think that way and do nothing, nothing will change. But if each individual decides to stand up to be counted for peace and love, things will change."

The pilgrims, who hail from 14 different countries, arrived in Israel as part of a 20-day around-the-world peace flight which had already taken them to Japan, the Philippines and Russia where they also prayed for God's intervention in bringing peace to the world. From here they were scheduled to go on to Italy, France, Portugal and finally New York.

Father "Bing" Edgardo Avellano of the Philippines, who has been the spiritual leader of all three Peace Flights, says the participants have come in the spirit of prayer and reparation, offering their own small personal sacrifices in atonement for the sins of the world.

They are not attempting to change anyone, Avellano said, they just want to be an example of how it is possible to love one another regardless of race, religion and national backgrounds.

Of course, added Archbishop Pedro R. Dean of Palo, Philippines, they do not expect immediate results from their prayers.

They are simply "planting the seed" and making their best

efforts through prayer and sacrifice to achieve peace "through Him, of course," Dean said.

In addition to their prayers the Peace Pilgrims brought with them the traveling statue of the Virgin Mary of Our Lady of Fatima, which was blessed by Pope Pius XII in 1947. According to believers, the statue has wept 30 times since the first sighting of the Virgin Mary 80 years ago in Fatima, north of Lisbon.

She is said to have appeared six times in 1917 to three peasant children. Her main message at the time was devotion to Mary, daily recitation of the rosary, the conversion of Russia to her message of prayer and peace, and the triumph of her peaceful message world-wide.

The Two-Hearts Peace Flights of Catholic pilgrims was the brainchild of Dr. Rosalie A. Turton, president of Foundation 101, an organization based in New Jersey which is dedicated to devotion to Mary.

"The peace flight is open only to people who are sincere devotees of Our Lady," said Turton. "We come to bring peace. People on the flight are willing to abandon themselves to whatever God wants of us."

In Nazareth the group was welcomed by Mayor Ramez Jerasi who praised their efforts and spoke of reconciliation between Arabs and Jews.

On Friday, the pilgrims led a peace procession with the statue of Our Lady of Fatima through the streets of Bethlehem that were filled with thousands of people. The procession ended at the Church of the Nativity with a Mass celebrated by the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem Michel Sabbah.

Local Palestinian Olga Hasfura, 72, genuflected several times in front of the statue and clasped her hands in prayer. "We think this virgin came here to make peace in Bethlehem and for all people all over the world," she declared.

For local businessman Nicolas Canawati, who sponsored the procession, the event not only had a spiritual significance but also was a concrete expression of

the Christian presence in Bethlehem. "For the last 10 years, with all the problems here and in the world, we haven't seen any Christian celebrations other than Christmas. During the intifada we could not do this and people were missing it."

Standing in the throng, Owatuf Handal, 32, hoisted her youngest children one by one to her shoulders, as she pointed to the statue of Our Lady of Fatima. Her son Antoine, four, clasped in his hands a statue of the Virgin Mary and held it up towards the statue of Fatima.

Ironically, the man who organized the whole procession in Bethlehem was Shalom Even, an Israeli Jew who runs a tour company out of Toronto and who was responsible for the groups' itinerary while in Israel.

The group's message of peace and cooperation seemed to have been lost on Mohammed Jabari, Governor of Bethlehem for the Palestinian Authority, who in welcoming the pilgrims made no mention of the cooperative spirit which allowed the event to take place. He chose, instead, to criticize Israel.

"All people pray to save this Holy Land and to achieve the real peace which Israel aims to destroy and [aims to] bring the area back to bloodshed and violence," said Jabari.

For their part, the pilgrims seemed confused.

"We are here for both sides. The idea of peace is for both sides," said Jacklyn Gally, of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. "The political part, that doesn't come from us."

Bandel said.

Marilyn Henry adds from New York:

The American Reform movement was not surprised by the attitude of the Chief Rabbi. But "we expect to be treated with some respect by the government of Israel," said Rabbi Eric Yoffie, head of the Reform movement in the US.

"We are a movement of a million and a half people. We have been enormously patient for four months. We were absolutely unprepared to countenance further delays without something concrete in our hands, and no one came close to providing that," Yoffie said yesterday.

He said he was saddened that the Neeman Committee had not worked. But he also was angry that the Reform movement had been "insulted," then "patronized" when it was told to be grateful for "the merest kind of crumbs," such as the willingness of the Orthodox to sit in the same room with the Reform and Conservative leadership.

"There was one insult too many along the way," Yoffie said.

Batsheva Tsur contributed to this report.



Catholics march for peace in Bethlehem carrying a statue of the Virgin Mary of Our Lady of Fatima. (Debbie Hill)

NEEMAN

Continued from Page 1

The decision to go back to the court, he said, came because the Conservative and Reform movements felt they had come to an impasse, with no one to talk to in the religious establishment.

Bandel revealed that he had consulted with MK Yossi Sarid, who as head of Meretz, was a co-petitioner in a petition to the court to seat Meretz-nominated Reform and Conservative representatives on the religious councils.

Sarid encouraged us to delay the court action," Bandel said.

Bandel said the decision followed what was considered a weak response to a demand for rabbinical authorities to agree to sit and talk with Reform and Conservative leaders.

He said that Rabbi David Grossman of Migdal Ha'emek and Haifa Chief Rabbi She'ar-Yashuv Cohen, both members of the Chief Rabbinical Council, "said that we are Jews."

"We thank them for that, but we didn't hear that they are ready to talk to us or that they are ready for compromise,"

PRIMAKOV

Continued from Page 1

The current Israeli stand, as outlined to him in considerable detail especially in his overtime tete-a-tete with Netanyahu, evidently convinced him that there may be a sound basis to renew the negotiations which were broken off 19 months ago.

The possibility that the diplomatic ice may be broken by a Russian emissary (secretary of state Warren Christopher and Madeleine Albright were unable to accomplish this goal) did not deter the Israeli side.

"Israel wants to renew the talks and by whose means is not important," said Netanyahu's director of communications, David Bar-Ilan.

Levy revealed Primakov's change of plans after conferring with visiting Finnish Foreign Minister Tarja Kaarina Halonen.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Aviv Shir-On agreed with

Primakov's contention that Syria is an important factor in the peace-making equation.

The Russian diplomatic initiative was seen as a new vindication of Moscow's status as a co-sponsor of the 1991 Madrid Conference.

Among the points stressed by Primakov while in Jerusalem was that there can be no regional peace without Syria being a party to it, "especially without Lebanon."

Jordan and Egypt are due to be the last stops on Primakov's itinerary.

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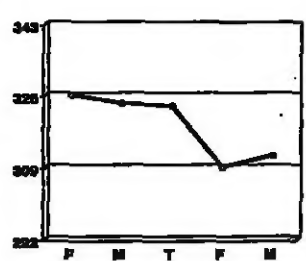
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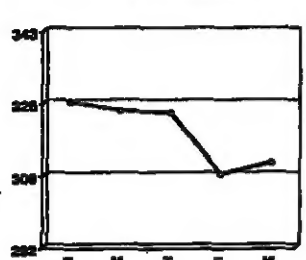
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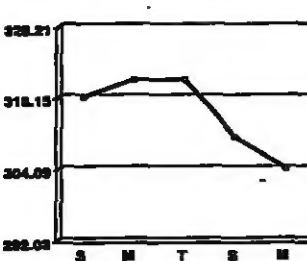


GOLD

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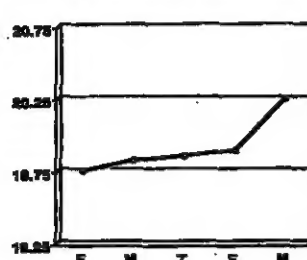


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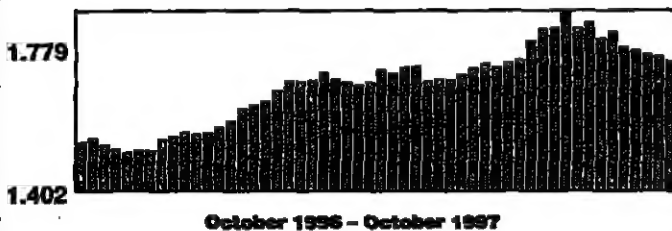


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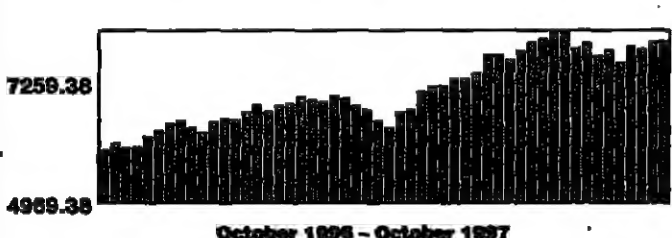
\$ per barrel of Brent crude



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Eisenbergs bring compromise to court

Globes News Service

Seven months after the death of billionaire Shaul Eisenberg, his heirs have reached a compromise over his estate.

The estate is to be shared among all family members, as follows: Erwin Eisenberg is to receive 35 percent of the estate; Shaul's wife, Leah Eisenberg, will receive 45%, from which daughter, Emily Furman will receive 5%. This will be after a deduction of \$20 million, which will be divided between Yigal Dimant, general manager of Israel Chemicals, who was married

to the late Elfrida Eisenberg, and daughter Esther Zuchovitzky, if she decides to join the agreement.

Daughter Edith Rosenfeld will receive 5%, to be deducted proportionately from the shares taken by Erwin and Leah Eisenberg.

Daughter Liz Hardy is being offered 5% on the same terms. The proposal calls for each of the daughters to receive 2.75% of the estate out of Erwin's share, and another 2.25% out of Leah's share.

Erwin will waive his claim to the shares of the Panamanian companies that hold control of the Israel Corporation. Erwin previously

claimed to have received these shares as a gift from his father. Upon waiving this claim, the shares belong to the estate, and will be subject to distribution among all those joining the agreement.

Erwin will continue to retain management of the group's companies. As regards voting rights in the companies, the parties to the agreement recognize the majority held by Erwin.

The principles of the agreement were presented yesterday to Tel Aviv District Court Deputy President Jesse Levitt.

At this stage, it is not clear whether Hardy and Zuchovitzky, who have not joined the agreement, will elect to conduct a court battle, or will ultimately join.

Hardy's counsel Yossi Segal and Efi Perry, said in court that, in their opinion, an alternative exists whereby Hardy can obtain a larger share. However, the two will announce their position in court, once a detailed list of the estate's assets is obtained from the administrators of the estate, by the end of the week.

Tuvia Erlich, who represented Erwin, said that "the great majority

of heirs has realized that peace in the family is the way to go."

Ya'acov Weinrot, who is representing Leah Eisenberg and Emily Furman, said the agreement is consistent with the spirit of Shaul Eisenberg's wishes, namely, that his son should continue to manage his business.

"The only point on which we have not complied with the deceased's wishes is in relation to his daughter Esther Zuchovitzky, to whom he intended to make no bequest," Weinrot said.

The next hearing in the case will take place on Sunday.

Bank of Israel leaves interest rate unchanged

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

The Bank of Israel yesterday announced that it will leave the key lending rate unchanged at 13.4 percent for the month of November.

Despite a negative September consumer price index, which was announced on October 15, and analysts' expectations that the rate would be lowered, the central bank said it decided to maintain the current rate in an effort to drive inflation down.

"When you set monetary policy, you have to look a couple of months ahead," said bank spokesman Gabi Fishman. "We are now looking ahead to next year."

Fishman said that the formula for next year's inflation target is this year's rate minus an undisclosed sum.

"The target for 1998 has been set at 7% - 10% like this year, but it needs to be lower than this year's figure by a certain amount," Fishman said.

Inflation is currently running at 6.4%, indicating an annual rate of 9% for 1997.

The Bank of Israel previously stated its intention to achieve an inflation rate of 4.5% by 2001. Its long-term goal is "price stability," or a rate of 2%-3%, which is comparable with inflation rates in Western Europe and the US, Fishman said.

Analysts said the bank decided not to lower the key lending rate in order to avoid conveying a yo-yo interest rate policy.

"In the last few months there's been lots of volatility, up and down, up and down," said Eli Nahum, head of trading at Zannex Securities.

"They don't want to appear that one month they are raising the rate and then the next month they are lowering it," he said.

Nahum said that unless there is a surprisingly high consumer price index next month, the bank should definitely lower the interest rates.

After cutting interest rates by 1.2% in June, the Bank of Israel raised the rate by 0.7% to 13.4% in August.

The rate has remained unchanged since.



Dow Jones plummets

Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange shortly after yesterday's opening bell.

(Reuters)

Philip Morris Europe head to stand trial for tax fraud in Italy

By ALESSANDRA GALLONI

ROME - An Italian judge said yesterday he had ordered the president of US tobacco giant Philip Morris' European branch, Walter Thoma, to stand trial for tax fraud but had dropped charges of criminal association.

Raffaele Marino, an examining judge in Naples, said that 10 managers and officials of Italian company InterTabac, a Philip Morris affiliate, had also been indicted on tax fraud charges.

Marino said Thoma and the 10 InterTabac officials were accused of avoiding payment on taxes of more than nine trillion lire (\$5.2 billion) of revenue between 1987 and 1996.

"They are accused of fiscal fraud for some nine trillion lire," he said. Marino said that the more serious charges of criminal conspiracy against Thoma and the 10 InterTabac employees had been dropped. The trial, which will take place in Naples, was set for January 5, 1998.

No one was immediately available for comment at Philip Morris in Italy or at InterTabac.

Philip Morris, which makes the Marlboro brand, controls about 50 percent of the Italian cigarette market with sales of some 10 billion lire in 1995.

The bulk of its cigarettes sold in Italy are made under license by the state tobacco department Monopoli, which forms part of the Finance Ministry.

Prosecutors, who first made their charges last year, allege that Philip Morris used InterTabac as a front company to take care of its Italian interests to avoid full taxation on royalties it received from Monopoli.

Under Italian law, a foreign company which directly controls an Italian affiliate is liable to pay tax in Italy.

Philip Morris in January denied the charges before an Italian parliamentary committee and said it had paid all the royalties - some in the US and others in Switzerland, where Philip Morris has its European headquarters.

"The idea that Philip Morris was involved in tax evasion is groundless," the firm said in a written document it submitted to the lower house of parliament's finance commission.

But company executives also complained at the time they had to pay twice as much tax in Italy as in other European countries with similar fiscal systems, such as Portugal, Spain, and Greece. (Reuters)

Intel to buy Digital's chip business

By GERARD MEUCHNER and Jerusalem Post Staff

SANTA CLARA, California - Intel Corp. said it will buy Digital Equipment Corp.'s chip making operations for \$700 million and produce its Alpha chip to end a patent dispute in which Digital accused Intel of stealing technology.

Intel also said it will enter a 10-year cross-licensing agreement with Digital and obtain the rights to make other semiconductor products from Digital, which will develop future generations of the Alpha.

The companies didn't give further financial details. Both companies stand to benefit, one financially, and the other politically.

Digital's profit is bound to rise because it no longer will bear the cost of running its unprofitable

Digital's Jerusalem plant won't face cuts

semiconductor business, analysts and investors said, while gaining a larger market for its chip. Intel wins because its puts to rest a thorny legal problem at a time when federal regulators are reviewing its business practices, they said.

"Digital resorted to the courts to achieve what it did not achieve in the market," said John Rutledge, an analyst at Boston's Loomis, Sayles & Co. "It's a pretty good financial win for Digital."

Digital sued Intel in May, alleging that the world's largest chip-maker used Digital's technology in creating its best-selling Pentium chips. Intel, whose microprocessors power 85 percent of the world's PCs, returned fire with its own suit.

Settling the suit by ensuring the survival of Digital's Alpha chip

could benefit Intel as the Federal Trade Commission pursues its inquiry, analysts said. Digital and Intel plan to ask the federal courts to suspend the lawsuits they filed against each other, an action required to complete the agreement.

Intel will get immediate access to Digital's modern chip-fabrication facility in Hudson, Massachusetts, where it makes the Alpha chip and other microprocessors.

"Intel is able to settle this whole thing very gracefully by simply acquiring fab capacity," said Gary Helmig, an analyst at SoundView Financial Group.

The settlement would be a boon to Maynard, Massachusetts-based Digital, whose inability to sell more Alpha microprocessors has hampered its financial recovery,

analysts have said. Licensing of Alpha by Intel validates the chip in a way that Digital never could, they said.

Intel will also acquire Digital's semiconductor manufacturing operations in Hudson, Massachusetts, and development plants in Austin, Texas, and Jerusalem.

An Intel spokesman said Digital's Jerusalem plant, which employs 90 to 100 people, will not face cuts.

"We don't intend to cut Digital's workforce; we intend to integrate them," the spokesperson said. Digital shares fell 5/8 to 49 15/16 in early trading, while Intel's stock fell 1 9/16 to 78 7/16.

Helmig, who has a "hold" rating on Digital's stock, said the \$700 million price may disappoint those who expected a total value of as much as double that amount. (Bloomberg Business News)

Finance Committee okays sale of Afridar, Weed Control Co.

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

The Knesset Finance Committee yesterday approved a request by the Government Companies Authority to sell Afridar and the Weed Control Co. to private investors.

The Prime Minister's office said. The valuations of the companies will be announced after Government Companies Authority director-general Tzipi Livini selects buyer from among the bidders.

According to the Government Companies' report released in September, Afridar, an Ashkelon-based property developer that employs 36 workers, earned net

profits of NIS 2.07m. in 1996 and registered sales of NIS 18.8m.

The Weed Control Co.'s 1996 net earnings totaled NIS 55,000 and revenues amounted to NIS 23m. The company has 65 employees.

Employees will receive dividends following the sale. The buyers will be obliged by

contract to comply with current labor agreements.

Meanwhile, the first stage of the options plan was being prepared for the privatization of Bank Leumi and Israel Discount Bank.

The government also intends to issue shares for major companies, including El Al, Israel Chemicals,

and defense industries, on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange.

Privatization is expected to yield at least NIS 5 billion in revenue in 1998.

Government receipts from the sales in 1997 will reach a record NIS 9 billion. Half the sum was earned from the sale of Bank Hapoalim.

TAAS-Israel Industries ends first half with \$22.9 million profit

By STEVE RODAN

TAAS-Israel Industries yesterday reported a net profit of \$22.9 million for the first half of the year. Executives said this represents a dramatic rebound from nearly a decade of losses.

During the same period last year, TAAS reported a loss of \$17.6m. The company now has

reported profits in four consecutive quarters.

In the last half of 1996, IMI recorded \$3.9m. in profits. The latest figures include an operating profit of \$14m., as compared to a loss of \$9.5m. during the same period in 1996.

An additional \$9m. in profit stemmed from a decrease in severance pay of dismissed workers, whose benefits are linked to the cost-of-living index.

The index decreased over the past year.

Executives said that earnings on sales for the first half of 1997 was 5.6 percent compared to 2.1% last year.

TAAS recorded sales of \$249m. from January to the end of June, an increase of 23% over the same period in 1996, when sales were \$203m.

TAAS sales to the local market increased by 22% and exports by 26%.

Executives forecast sales for 1997 at \$310m., similar to last year.

BITS & BYTES

G-Connect receives \$3m investment from Genesis Partners, a venture capital fund managed by Eddie Shalev Management and Oppenheimer & Co., has agreed to invest \$3m. in G-Connect, a subsidiary of Teledata, in exchange for a 16.67% stake. The investment is based on a \$15 million valuation of the Internet products company. The company has an option to invest an additional \$3m.

Geotek wins network contract in Argentina: Geotek Communications recently announced that its subsidiary Geotek Argentina won a contract to build a digital network in Argentina. The size of the contract was not announced. Geotek plans to provide network service initially in Buenos Aires, with future expansion planned for Cordoba, Mendoza, and Santa Fe/Rosario. Geotek provides mobile business networks, services, and digital wireless communications products around the world.

Investment Center issues high-tech grants: The Investment Center of the Ministry of Industry and Trade recently announced that it awarded several high-tech grants. Rad Communications received \$1.8m. for the expansion of its local factories which produce communications equipment; software developer Mercury Interactive received \$2m.; Orbol, a developer of automated machinery used in the production of semiconductors, received \$660,000 for the expansion of its factory; and Nice Systems, a maker of digital communications systems and services, received \$440,000.

Magic chosen by Ciba Grimsby: Magic Software Enterprises won a contract to become the standard development platform for Ciba Grimsby, part of the Ciba Geigy Group. Ciba will use Magic to develop business applications over several years, along with some minor applications and the re-engineering of existing systems. Ciba Grimsby, of England, is a subsidiary of Ciba Geigy, a world-wide biological and chemical group which manufactures medicines, crop protection, plastics, and adhesives.

Security-7 Software announces worldwide marketing: Security-7 Software recently announced that it will be marketing its SafeGate Enterprise Network Security Systems worldwide. SafeGate provides high-performance, real-time protection from Java applets, dangerous intrusions that can harm companies' computer networks. SafeGate has been implemented and tested in recent weeks in several major companies, including Fujitsu America and Edify.

Team Computers wins NIS 4.3m. contract: Team Computers recently announced that it won a NIS 4.3m. contract to install a computer system for the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs. Team will create, build, install, and maintain the mobile information system, which will be designed to allow ministry officials to supervise and check factories using mobile computing units.

Tecnomatix receives \$1m. order from Fiat Group: Tecnomatix Technologies Ltd. recently announced that it has received repeat orders from the Fiat Group of Italy totaling approximately \$1 million. The orders include a variety of software applications used for automotive spot-welding and other automated tasks. Tecnomatix develops computer-aided production engineering (CAPE) software products used by production engineers to create virtual machines and production equipment models.

Trade Systems provides marketing guide: Israeli businesspeople can tune into <http://www.salesguides.com>, an Internet site designed to provide a how-to guide to going global.

Created by Trade Systems, Inc., a US-based marketing organization, the site provides detailed customer-by-customer instructions on how companies of all sizes can sell to more than 225 major corporations, government entities, and other organizations around the world. Trade Systems updates the site regularly to add new sales prospects for Web visitors.

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הכרזת האו"ם

Tuesday
October 28, 1997

Court

heirs has realized that peace family is the way to go. Leif Weinrot, who is representing Leif Eisenberg and Eyal Eisenberg, said the agreement is in the spirit of the late Eisenberg's wishes, namely that the family should continue to manage the business.

he only point on which we are not complied with the late Eisenberg's wishes is in relation to the daughter Esther Zuchovitsky, whom he intended to make his next heir, said Weinrot.

place on Sunday.

Bank of Israel leaves interest rate unchanged

By JENNIFER FRIEDMAN

he Bank of Israel yesterday announced that it will leave its lending rate unchanged at 4 percent for the month of November.

Despite a negative September consumer price index, which was announced on October 15, and analysts' expectations that the rate would be lowered, the central bank said it decided to maintain its current rate in an effort to wean inflation down.

"When you set monetary policy, you have to look a couple of months ahead," said bank spokesman Oded Fishman. "We are now looking ahead to next year."

Fishman said that the formula for next year's inflation target is 3 percent, a slight increase from this year's 2.5 percent target.

"The target for 1998 is 3 percent, which is like the year to year rate to be lower than the target rate by a certain amount," Fishman said.

Inflation is currently running at 3.5 percent, indicating an annualized rate of 4.5 percent.

The Bank of Israel announced its intention to raise the discount rate from 4.5 percent to 5 percent, but it did not do so.

The bank said it will continue to monitor the situation and will act accordingly.

Analysts said the bank's move to lower the lending rate is a signal to avoid over-inflation and to keep the economy growing.

"The last few months have seen lots of inflationary pressure, up and down," said Oded Fishman, head of the bank's press office.

They don't want to see inflation rise too much, but they also don't want to see the economy slow down, he said.

After cutting the rate by 0.25 percent in June, the bank had raised it to 4.5 percent in August.

The rate was raised to 4.5 percent in August.

The bank's move is a signal to the market that it is still committed to its goal of keeping inflation under control.

control Co.

and defense industries in the

from the State of Israel.

Private sector companies are

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Governmental bodies are

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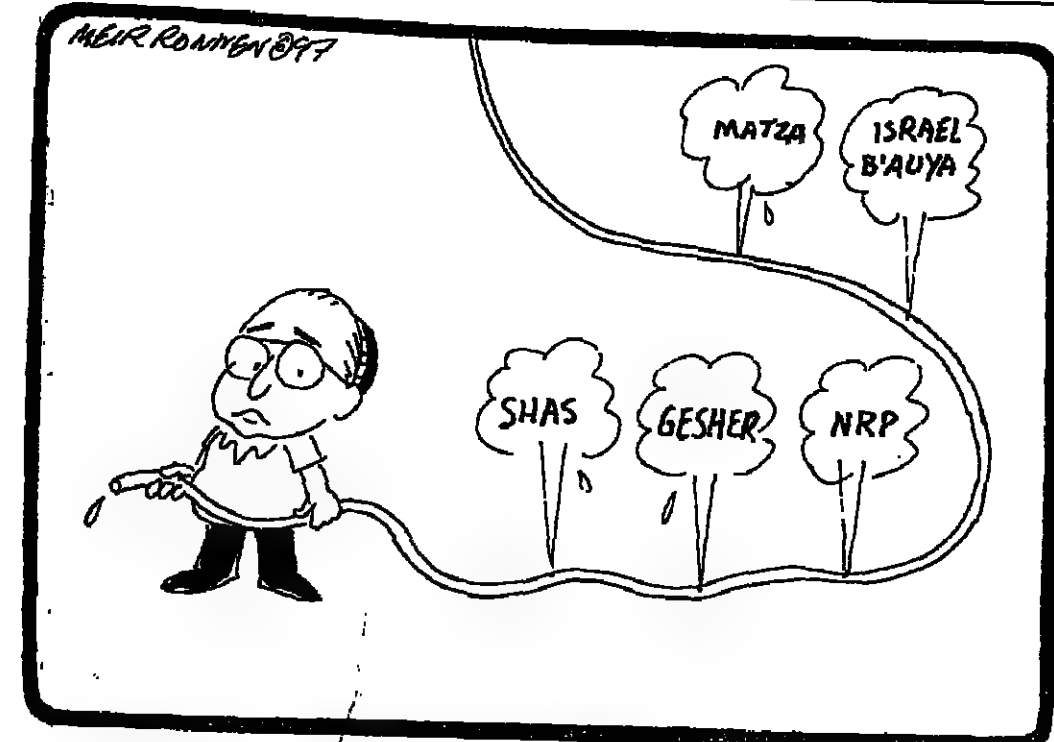
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MOTORING

A hot little number

The Peugeot 406 delivers sheer driving perfection — if not a lengthy accessory list

By JOEL GORDIN

The French company Peugeot insists on calling its models by numbers rather than names. I don't think I'm the only curmudgeon who thinks that it's nicer to own an automobile with a name rather than a number.

However, there is a certain amount of logic in the "numbers game." It's clear that the 406 is larger than the 306 but smaller than the 605. The 306, which costs around NIS 80,000, competes in the family-class market segment, the 406 in the executive-class segment and the 605 in the super-luxury segment (the latter car recently won an important IDF tender and is now the official automobile for IDF generals).

Actually, Peugeot was without a competitor in the executive-class segment for a long time. Although the 406 was launched about three years ago, Peugeot declined to bring it to Israel because it was not available with a two-liter engine driven by automatic shift — the essential combination in Israel for executive class (in European countries, such as an automobile would be defined as a "large family car" while in the US it would be a "small car").

However, the 406 proved worth the wait. I can think of no other automobile in the segment — including the Honda Accord, the Mitsubishi Galant, the Mazda 626 and the Toyota Camry — that comes close to the driving perfection of the 406.

Let's start at the beginning. The 406 is wide (1.764 m.) and long (4.555 m.). It is sleek and elegant rather than beautiful; classy more

than trendy. The interior is roomy. Five large adults can be seated in comfort, and the 430-liter trunk is large enough to hold their luggage.

On the other hand, the two front seats are too soft for my liking. The driver can adjust the height of the chair, but a short front-seat passenger must stretch to see through the windshield. The arrangement of the controls is ergonomic and attractive and the dash is inlaid with imitation wood veneer. The zig-zag gate of the automatic shift is eye-catching and works smoothly.

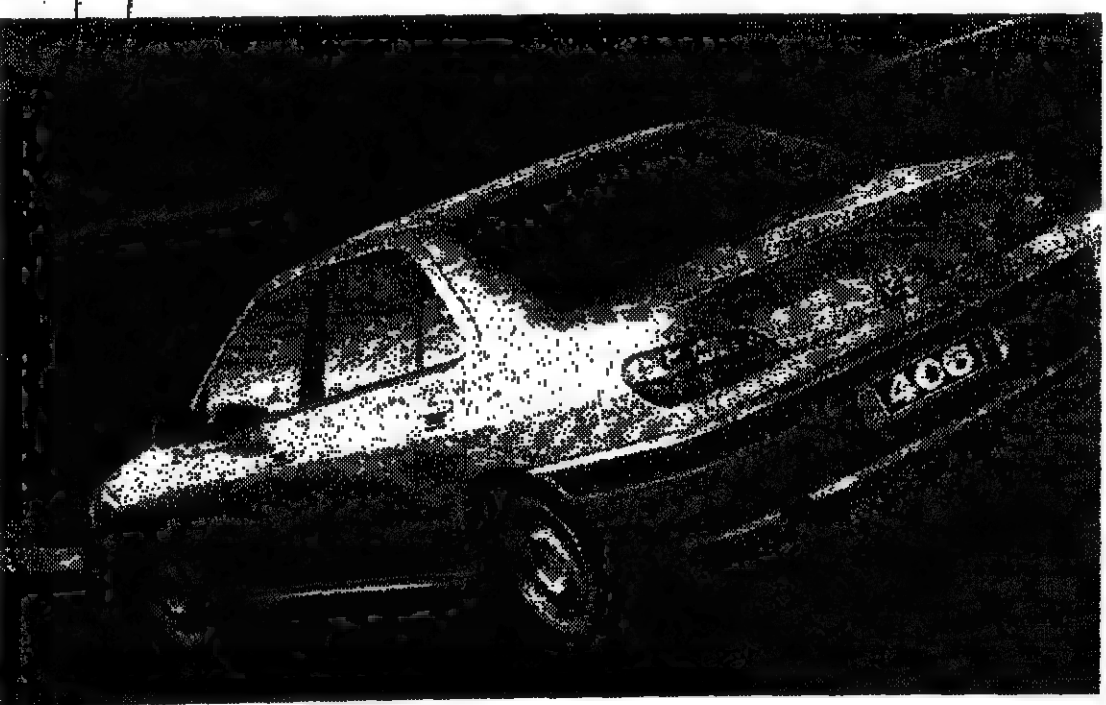
But the accessory list is thin. Forget about luxuries like cruise control, factory-supplied radio or sunroof. There isn't even a rear windshield wiper or a demister for the front windshield. I happened to use the car on a rainy night and to demist the windshield I was forced to blast icy cold air from the air conditioner.

I drove the cheaper "SV" version, whose luxury items include power windows, electrically controlled side mirrors, central locking and an immobilizer ignition switch. If you pay about NIS 10,000 more for the "ST" version, you'll be rewarded with a fancier air conditioner, more "plastic wood" on the inside, a high-tech (front) windshield wiper, a thermometer that gives the air temperature outside the car, more side pockets and an inside courtesy light that extinguishes itself gradually after the headlamps have been switched off. Still no cruise control, electrically operated driving seat — or rear windshield wiper. A sunroof will cost NIS 6,000 extra.

However, all these gripes about accessories are forgiven when you hit the road. The 406's road-holding, suspension and balance are faultless. When choosing this car you don't need to compromise safety for pleasure. Even a novice driver can take this automobile at speed through the tightest bend without fear — safety-wise, that's worth more than a dozen airbags (for the record, there are two front airbags and an ABS braking system).

The engine does not give sheer power — for that you must pay around NIS 180,000 for the 135 horsepower coupe or NIS 220,000 for the V8 3-liter with 194 horses. However, the 406's high torque rating gives a more-than-satisfactory zip for overtaking at most reasonable, intermediate speeds. At between 90 km/h. and 100 km/h., the rev counter shows around 2,500 r.p.m., at which speed the engine noise is nonexistent. The high-tech, automatic shift, with its separate programs for "sport" or "economic" driving, is perfectly set for the engine. The 406 is, simply, a joy to drive without being overpowered.

PEUGEOT 406
ENGINE: 1,998cc
HORSEPOWER: 135 at 5,500 r.p.m.
TORQUE: 18.7 at 4,200 r.p.m.
GEARS: automatic
ACCELERATION: From 0-100 km/h. in 14.1 secs.
MAXIMUM SPEED: 198 km/h.
FUEL CONSUMPTION: 6.2 l./km. in town; 12.6 at 90 km/h., 9.1 average.
PRICE: NIS 123,000 (ST) or NIS 132,700 (SV)



THE CONFERENCE CIRCUIT

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

28.10 High-tech Industrialists is being held at the Holon Center for Technological Education, within the framework of a week-long series of events. The purpose of the conference is to demonstrate opportunities for long-distance education and to establish guidelines for cooperation between the center and high-tech companies.

30.10 Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism Moshe Katsav will be the guest of honor at a conference on tourism and franchising to mark the opening of a course on tourism and franchising at Tel Aviv University's Management Faculty. Also participating will be John Russell, president of the tourism division of Hospitality Franchising Services, which controls internationally known hospitality chains such as Days Inn and Ramada. The conference will focus on Tourism Toward the Year 2000.

3.11 Oracle and Compaq are holding a study day at

the Holiday Inn, Herzliya, for Companies That Have Opted for Windows-NT. Data-system managers and managers of PC teams will be presented with smart solutions for their business needs.

4.11 Spin-offs as Boosters for Enhancing Company Worth will be discussed at a study evening at the Sheraton Hotel, Tel Aviv. Sponsored by the Israel Management Center, the debate will examine the effectiveness of spin-offs along with the economic and legal considerations involved. Participants will also become acquainted with existing spin-off ventures.

12.11 Everything About Appropriations and Compensations in Real Estate is the provoking title of a study day organized at the Eyal Seminar, Ramat Eyal, by the Center for Real Estate Management and Initiatives. Speakers will include representatives of various branches of real-estate evaluation and development plus legal experts from the Union

of Local Authorities and the State Attorney's office.

27.11 Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman, Governor of the Bank of Israel Ya'acov Frenkel, Labor Party Chairman Ehud Barak plus leading academics, business people and Knesset members will be among the guests attending the Annual Conference of the Israel Management Center at the Dan Panorama Hotel, Tel Aviv. The conference will address the question of how to take the next economic step.

3.12 Senior executive officers from a diverse group of companies will participate in the First International Summit Conference on Internet Is Good for Business at Gan Oranim in Tel Aviv. The conference will investigate, from both local and global perspectives, ways in which businesses of all kinds are being influenced by Internet developments.

The milk makeover

US consumption is falling as kids reach for hipper drinks like cola and juice, but marketers are determined to make milk cool

By TIM COULTER

CHICAGO — Five-year-old Mark Coyne of Naperville, Illinois, is living proof that the \$19 billion milk industry is losing ground in the nation's grocery stores. Mark prefers juice to milk because "I like the way it tastes."

His mom, Jeanne Coyne, still buys milk, though her four kids prefer other drinks. "If they drank what they wanted, they would have juice, Squeezits and Kool-Aid," she said.

The milk industry has an image problem, especially with its primary consumers: kids. They think Coca-Cola — arguably the best-known brand in the world — is hip. Paperboard milk cartons, with two-color graphics and photos of lost peers, are not.

"We are trying to make milk cool, dress up its image," said Tom Hinkes, vice president of milk marketing at Dairy Management Inc. (DMI), a producer-funded group. For children, "milk is a Volvo. It's very safe. There's nothing wrong with it, but it's boxy. Coke is a sports car," he said.

For the nation's dairy farmers, it's more than a marketing problem. Milk's shrinking share of the beverage market and the high cost of feeding herds have put the squeeze on less-efficient producers. Rising cheese demand helps, though farmers don't get as much for milk used in processing as they do for fluid milk. "The cost and investment is so great that it's putting everybody out of business," complained Howard Voegeli, owner of Voegeli Farm Inc. in Monticello, Wisconsin.

While no one argues that milk production will dry up, it's becoming a lot less profitable for some farmers because not enough people drink it. That's left prices stable for years, even though milk is a staple in many school lunch rooms and consumption of breakfast cereals remains strong. On average, Americans last year drank 24.3 gallons of milk, down 18 percent from 29.5 gallons in 1975, according to the US Department of Agriculture.

Meanwhile, juice consumption jumped 32% to 8.7 gallons each from 6.6 gallons, and soda demand almost doubled to 51.9 gallons from 28.2 gallons.

Some of the shift can be attributed to the aging of America, because people drink milk most often when they're young. Changes in the ethnicity of the



Slick ads, flashy four-color packaging and fruit-flavored milk are among the innovations designed to win back the hearts of milk's core customers: children.

nation also drag down milk consumption. African-Americans drink less milk than whites, according to the USDA. Eating out further erodes milk demand.

Still, milk is losing its core customers: children, and not just because fewer are being born. A recent milk-industry study found that soda accounts for 20% of the beverages consumed by children between the ages of one and five.

Recognizing that fact, DMI started the "Got Milk?" campaign to exploit the product's association with certain foods, such as chocolate chip cookies. The National Fluid Milk Processor Education Program's ubiquitous "milk mustache" ads seek to reinforce the drink's nutritional value with young mothers and 20-something buyers.

Israel has followed suit with local celebrities such as Gidi Gov and Yael Ben-Zohar sporting milk mustaches in print advertisements. Changing long-held perceptions will be difficult. As long as milk and dairy products are considered an important food group, consumers are more likely to see it as something that's good for them rather than something they want to drink when thirsty, some analysts say. "You can't change a leopard's spots," said Jim Miller, dairy ana-

lyst for the USDA. "To promote milk as a beverage when consumers for decades have not perceived it as such doesn't seem to me to be an effective expense of promotional money."

That doesn't stop them from trying. Industry experts consider the most aggressive marketer to be Dean Foods Co., which is rolling out its "Milk Chug" in half-pint, pint and quart plastic bottles. Others have replaced bland labels on milk cartons with flashy four-color graphics. Skim milk is now being sold as "fat free" in some markets. Others are creating new products, the most visible being chocolate, vanilla, strawberry and orange flavored milks.

Milk Marketing Inc., a dairy cooperative, last year began selling the "Moo Kooler." Smooth Moos Pepsi-Cola Co., a unit of PepsiCo Inc., is testing "Smooth Moos" in Wichita, Kansas. It could become more serious about the product after Philip Marineseau, who invigorated milk marketing at Dean Foods, in December becomes president and chief executive of Pepsi North America.

Hershey Foods Corp. and others are also trying their own variations. "There is a lot of potential in the flavored milk industry," said Bill

McCabe, director of marketing at Smith Dairy Products Co. in Orrville, Ohio, a distributor of the Moo Kooler. Milk vending machines are being developed, while carbonated milk — in the form of the old-fashioned "egg cream" — is available in some markets.

Juice, water and soda have taken market share from milk that will be hard to recover, so just slowing the decline in consumption might be considered a victory.

"You could spend a billion dollars in advertising, and you are not going to reverse the trend," said Harry Kaiser, associate professor of agricultural economics at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. "My sense is that success would be keeping market share where it is."

It's not all bad news. In 1996, there were 3.90 million babies born, according to the National Center for Health Statistics, little changed from 1995 and ending the steady decline from 1990. The peak for US births was 4.3 million in 1957. "It's a wonderful opportunity," said Rachel Kylo, vice president of marketing at Marigold Foods Inc., a unit of Royal Bels Wessanen NV, which sells milk in much of the upper Midwest. "The industry owes it to itself to change the perception of milk." (Bloomberg)

What's in the cards for Palphot

A 60-year-old giant in the local greeting-card market strives to stay on top amid stiff competition from home and abroad

By RACHEL NEIMAN

Their name is on the back of almost every Israeli postcard. For most of its 60-year existence, Palphot had almost no competition. Over the years, small companies have nibbled away at certain Palphot niches — Turnovsky, for instance, made a big splash in the 1980s with high-quality, gold-embossed Judaica motifs — but in the end, it always swung back with its own offerings. And what the products lacked in quality, they made up for in low prices.

But the scenario is changing. Relaxed import restrictions mean Palphot is already facing stiffer competition from foreign companies. Other Israeli manufacturers like Dora and Chanan Mazal, as well as Turnovsky, are also making in-roads. And No. 1 US card company, Hallmark, which recently licensed Israeli representative Confetti to produce its cards in Hebrew, is the latest player. Confetti has been the exclusive Hallmark importer to Israel since 1982, but the license to market in Hebrew is something new.

"Throughout the years I kept telling Hallmark's London office we have to translate into Hebrew," says Confetti owner David Hostyk. "But we were part of a company-wide problem of how to deal with small markets. At that time, they were only interested in producing foreign-language cards to large markets [at least 80 million to 100 million units per year]." The high cost of production meant small countries like

Israel, and low income countries, such as Russia and Ukraine, didn't come under consideration.

But digital technology has changed all that. Three years ago, Hallmark developed a licensing program for these emerging markets.

The company is now digitizing its archives and catalogs so that its 25 foreign licensees, including China, Croatia, Slovakia, Ukraine, Russia and Israel, can get the same digital artwork, add in their own content, decide on a price and send it back to headquarters for approval — all on-line.

"We use the exact artwork from the Hallmark style book, but once we find the picture we want, we either translate or give relevant content. Of course, there are guidelines, but content is our responsibility," Hostyk explains. For example, Confetti will be producing Snoopy army cards with IDF-oriented greetings — in Hebrew.

One common reaction among Israeli youth seeing Ziggy or Peanut in Hebrew for the first time is: "I'm used to these things in English." Is Hebrew content important? Hostyk says yes. "While English is understood, it's not the language of communication, and greeting cards are about expression."

But while Hallmark may be No. 1 in the US, here Palphot is the industry leader. Founded in 1934 as the Palestine Photo company, Palphot, like its US counterparts, has its roots in the postcard business, catering to

the Israeli tourist market. Palphot expanded from postcards to books about the Holy Land — which it continues to publish — in 15 languages — to souvenirs, notably dried flower arrangements inside cards and laminated bookmarks.

Owned by the Dorfman family, Palphot has a manufacturing and distribution facility that covers a 10,000 sq.m. area. The privately owned concern employs 250 people and has 5,000 local points of sale. Palphot distributes through a variety of channels, in the US and Europe, and has a 30-year affiliation with publicly traded American Greetings, the US's No. 2 card maker.

"If we look at the Palphot collection today, there are things we never dreamed we'd be investing in, idea and finance-wise," says Palphot marketing representative Avi Ginsburg. In addition to upgrading the quality and design of its cards, Palphot made a strategic decision 15 years ago to rely no further on sub-contractors, investing in its own wholly owned printing facility. At this time Palphot also began looking toward the export market, explains Ginsburg. "Today we participate in the major international exhibitions. We export calendars and greeting cards, both Jewish and general, to 20 countries."

Palphot, he says, specializes not in humor or texts, but in artistic

images with general appeal. In fact, Palphot is known in the general market for its flower cards and, though it no longer uses real dried flowers, has developed techniques which imitate the quality of dried flowers.

The company also keeps abreast of trends in both the general and Jewish markets, both of which are undergoing dramatic changes. While Palphot doesn't go as far as combining Christmas and Hanukkah images, the company is aware of the intermarriage trend in holiday cards and tries to be sensitive to that issue. Another significant trend: Symbols of Jewish nationalism are out with Diaspora Jews.

"Palphot is very deeply involved and perhaps unique in its connection with the Jewish world," says Ginsburg. "Everything happening in the Jewish world gets expressed in cards, and cards are a very sensitive matter because the message comes from the heart."

The 1990s marked the ascent of "anyday" cards, designed to convey personal messages about feelings and relationships, hopes and disappointments.

"In the US now the trend is to use cards for social expression, beyond special occasions. We'll be introducing that sort of thing as well," says Hostyk.

Palphot's Ginsburg sees "anyday" cards, like the greeting-card industry as a whole, as a North American cultural import to be slowly assimilated. After all, Israelis are still getting used to the idea of card-giving as a means of expression.

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AMEX			
Am Israel Paper Mills	43.75	-2.75	
Ampel American Israel	5.4375	-0.1675	
Elz Laviud	7.1675	-0.4375	
Elz Laviud Cl A	6.5	0	
Integrated Technology	1.375	+0.125	
	0.125	0.	

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Smurfit Inc.	18.8	-0.75
Tadpole	37.25	-2.5
SOURCE: S&P COMSTOCK	(DATE 27-01-94)	

LONDON		
Bain Advanced	130.5	+0
Dynabek Ltd	39.6	-0
Geo Interactive Media	57.5	-3
Pirell	59.5	+0
S.E.A. Multimedia	18.5	+0
Solent	45.5	+0

SHARES		LAST	CHG
NEW YORK			
Alcoa	28 1/2	125	+1.1
AMP Inc.	41 3/8	125	-0.1
AMR Corp.	110 5/8	5	-0.1
ASA	27 7/8	2.5	-0.2
1 column	58 7/8	2.2	-0.1

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Marlins are Kingfish, Indians still cursed

Bases-loaded hit in 11th inning gives Florida World Series crown

MIAMI (AP) — The Florida Marlins got their money's worth, and so did baseball fans.

In a Game 7 that got more thrilling with each pitch, the Marlins delivered the World Series trophy they spent nearly \$100 million to capture. But it was the way they won it that not even billionaire owner Wayne Huizenga could have bargained for.

Down to their last at-bat, the Marlins sprang to life just in time, beating the long-suffering Cleveland Indians 3-2 Sunday night on Edgar Renteria's RBI single with two outs in the bottom of the 11th inning.

While the 5-year-old Marlins became the youngest expansion team to win a championship — and the first wild card — the Indians only added to a half-century of heartbreak.

Cleveland was just a double-play grounder away from its first championship since 1948, but Craig Counsell's sacrifice fly in the ninth tied it at 2. The Marlins then took advantage of an error by second baseman Tony Fernandez to score the winning run on Renteria's bases-loaded hit.

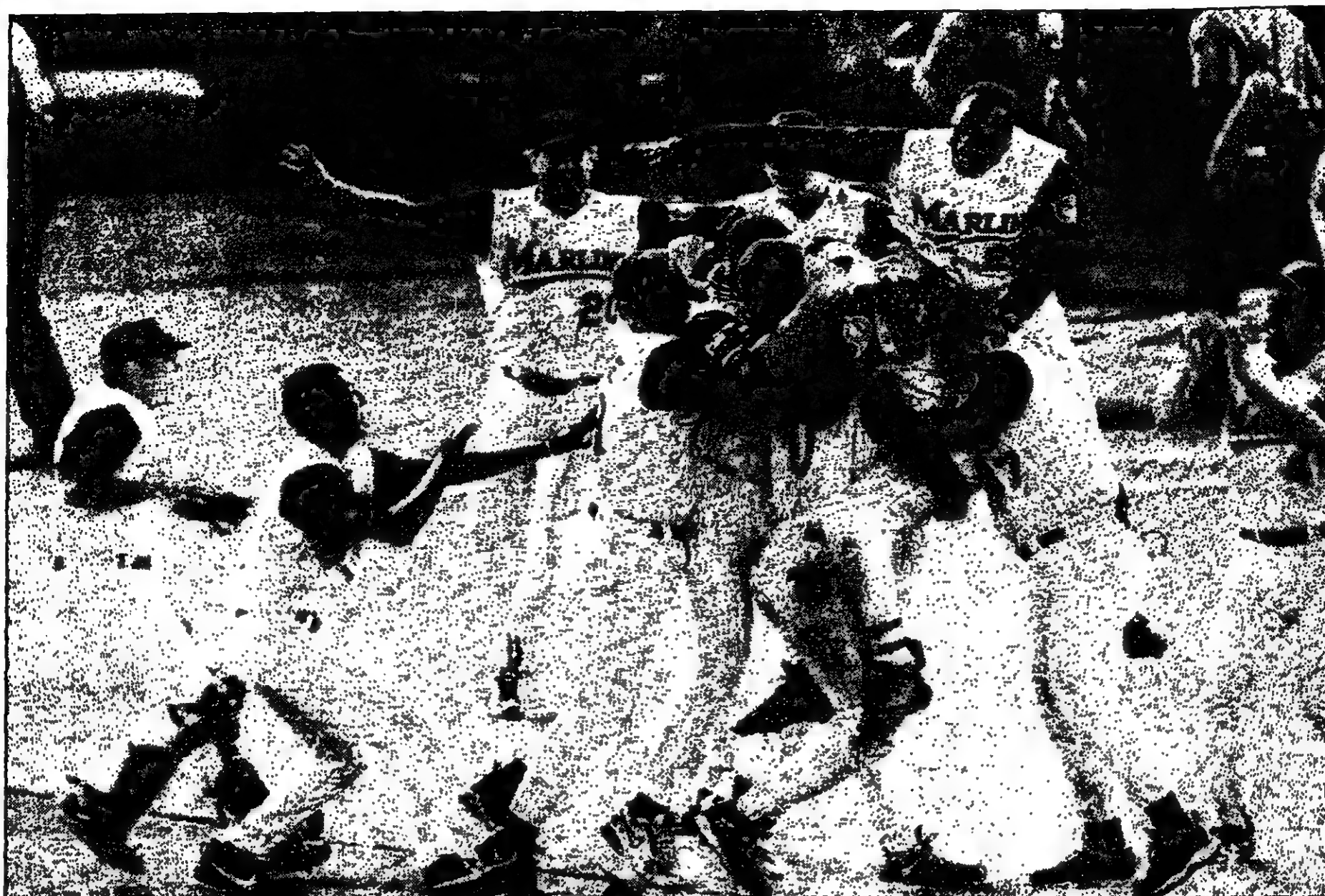
"I was a little concerned. We haven't given up all year — tonight wasn't the time to give up. When we walked into the clubhouse tonight, we knew we were going to be world champions," Marlins manager Jim Leyland said.

A see-saw Series finished with the teams alternating wins for all seven games. Devoid of drama for the first six games, Game 7 packed an entire season's worth of thrills into one night that kept getting better as the clock passed midnight.

The Marlins had never had a winning year until their spending spree, and it paid off — barely. They eclipsed the mark of the New York Mets, who won in their eighth season in 1969, as the fastest to the top.

This was just the third Game 7 to go to extra innings. It happened in 1991 in one of the most memorable games ever, the night Jack Morris pitched all 10 innings to lead Minnesota over Atlanta 1-0, and also in 1924.

Florida led the majors with 26 wins in their final at-bat. One of them came in the Marlins' first



WILD THINGS — The Florida Marlins, the first wild card team to win the World Series, celebrate after 11th-inning victory.

(Reuters)

postseason game when Renteria's two-out single in the ninth inning beat San Francisco in the opener of the division series.

Jay Powell pitched one inning for the victory. Charles Nagy, passed over in favor of rookie Jarret Wright for the Game 7 start, lost in his first relief appearance since 1990.

Florida pitcher Livan Hernandez became just the second rookie to win the Series MVP award, joining Larry Sherry of Los Angeles in 1959. The trophy was even more special for the 22-year-old Hernandez, who won Games 1 and 5, because his mother was allowed by Cuban officials to visit the US for the final game.

"The victory, I give to her," he said, shouting so his translator could hear him. "This trophy, it's hers."

Indians manager Mike Hargrove found no joy on his 48th birthday. Born a year after the Indians' last title, his club added the most devastating defeat to a city that has only known losing for too

long. It was their second World Series loss in three years.

"I don't really know what to tell the team. Other than they played hard all year long," Hargrove said. "We overcame long odds to get where we're at. We played hard, we didn't give the game away, it could've gone either way."

Cleveland relief ace Jose Mesa

was just a double-play grounder away from clinching the championship in the ninth, but Counsell tied it with a deep fly to right.

Bobby Bonilla, one of Florida's high-priced free agents, singled to start the 11th against Nagy. One out later, Counsell hit a grounder to the right side and Bonilla may have screened Fernandez, racing

to third when the ball rolled past the second baseman's glove.

"I tried to shield it somewhat," Bonilla said. "I'm not running that well. I have the hamstring, the way I was running, I wasn't going to get to second anyway."

Visions of Bill Buckner's mis-play in the 1986 Series stirred as the Indians intentionally walked Jim Eisenreich to load the bases.

Devon White grounded into a force play at the plate before Renteria lined an 0-1 pitch past Nagy for the victory.

The Marlins raced on to the field in triumph while Indians first baseman Jim Thome crouched alone in front of the mound.

Fernandez gave the Indians the lead in third with a two-run single off Florida starter Al Leiter.

Bonilla made it 2-1 in the seventh with a home run, the only run allowed by the 21-year-old Wright.

Thome drew a leadoff walk in the third and Marquis Grissom followed with a single on another full count. That brought up Wright, and once again a Cleveland pitcher came through at the plate.

A day after starter Chad Ogea had two hits and drove in two runs in a 4-1 win, Wright put down a sacrifice bunt to the right side.

First baseman Darren Daulton bobbled the ball and cost himself a chance to make a play at third.

The runners were forced to stay at second and third when Omar Vizquel popped up. But Fernandez delivered them with a soft single to center field.

The Marlins had a threat in the opening inning when Renteria doubled and Gary Sheffield walked with one out.

Daulton hit a grounder to Fernandez, and the second baseman flipped to Vizquel for a force play.

Vizquel tied a Series record by stealing two bases in the fifth inning. He stole five bases in the Series and was not caught.

Cleveland 002 000 000 00—2 6 2
Florida 000 000 101 01—3 8 0
J. Wright, Asenmacher (7),
M. Jackson (8), Br. Anderson (8), Mesa
(9), Nagy (10) and S. Alomar, A. Leiter,
Cook (7), Alfonso (8), F. Hernandez (9),
Neo (9), Powell (11) and C. Johnson,
Zazu (10), W. Powell, J. O. L. Nagy,
0-1, HR—Florida, Bonilla (1).

A perfect ending for Marlins' skipper Jim Leyland

MIAMI (AP) — He was the reason it had to end exactly the way it did.

And when the World Series finally did end Sunday night, Jim Leyland lifted both hands skyward in celebration and ran to the screen behind home plate, exhorting first his family to join him, then the Marlins fans, then everyone who has ever loved the game he dedicated his lifetime to.

"I guess every little boy dreams of this," said Leyland, whose three decades in baseball have been laced with as much bitter as sweet. "But I thought it was a total fantasy for me."

Fittingly, Bobby Bonilla was the first player to embrace Leyland because it was Bonilla who was with him in Pittsburgh, where Leyland got his first big-league managing job

and came so tantalizingly close to a World Series several times that you wondered how he ever got over the heartaches.

For a moment, Leyland's pencil-thin frame nearly disappeared in Bonilla's muscular embrace, a scene that framed his style of running a ballclub. No manager is better loved by the guys who play for him than Leyland, and none is quite so self-effacing.

He signed his first pro contract with the Detroit organization in 1963.

He cried the day he had to release his first player — Leyland was all of 26 and managing Detroit's rookie club in Bristol, Virginia — and over 11 seasons he managed in five different towns at all different levels of the minor leagues.

Holding the trophy above his head, he said, "This is for all the minor league managers, the guys in the instructional leagues," he said. "I'm a Double-A backup, flunky catcher. So don't give up guys."

Leyland suffered losing the NL Championship Series three straight years while managing in Pittsburgh and when the cost-conscious Pirates let guys like Bonilla and Barry Bonds go, then he decided to leave, too.

In Florida was the promise that owner Wayne Huizenga's deep pockets would back him. He looked around the Marlins clubhouse in the spring, knew the talent was there and then set about melding it into a team that would breathe life into a slogan he set forth as an ideal — "25 players, one heartbeat."

Last at-bat World Series winners

Teams that won the World Series in the bottom of the last inning:

1997 Florida Marlins

Edgar Renteria's bases-loaded, two-out single off Charles Nagy in the 11th inning gives the Marlins a 3-2 victory over the Cleveland Indians in the seventh game of the Series.

1993 Toronto Blue Jays

Joe Carter's three-run homer with one out in the ninth inning off Mitch Williams rallied the Blue Jays to an 8-6 victory over the Philadelphia Phillies and a 4-2 triumph in the Series.

1991 Minnesota Twins

Pinch-hitter Gene Larkin's bases-loaded single over a drawn-in outfield gives the Twins a 10-inning, 1-0 victory over the

Atlanta Braves and a 4-3 win.

1960 Pittsburgh Pirates

Bill Mazeroski's ninth-inning homer broke a 9-all tie and gave the Pirates the championship in seven games against the New York Yankees. The Pirates five-run rally in the eighth had given them a 9-7 lead, but NY tied it with two runs in the top of the ninth.

1953 New York Yankees

Billy Martin's one-out single, his 12th hit of the Series, drove in the winning run in the ninth inning and gave the Yankees a 4-3 victory over the Brooklyn Dodgers and a 4-2 Series win.

1935 Detroit Tigers

Goose Goslin's two-out single in the ninth brought home Mickey Cochrane with the win-

ning run of a 4-3 victory over the Chicago Cubs, giving the Tigers a 4-2 Series triumph.

1929 Philadelphia Athletics

Bing Miller doubled in Al Simmons to cap a three-run rally in the ninth inning and gave the A's a 3-2 victory over the Chicago Cubs and a 4-1 Series win. Mule Haas had tied the score with a two-run homer earlier in the inning.

1927 New York Yankees

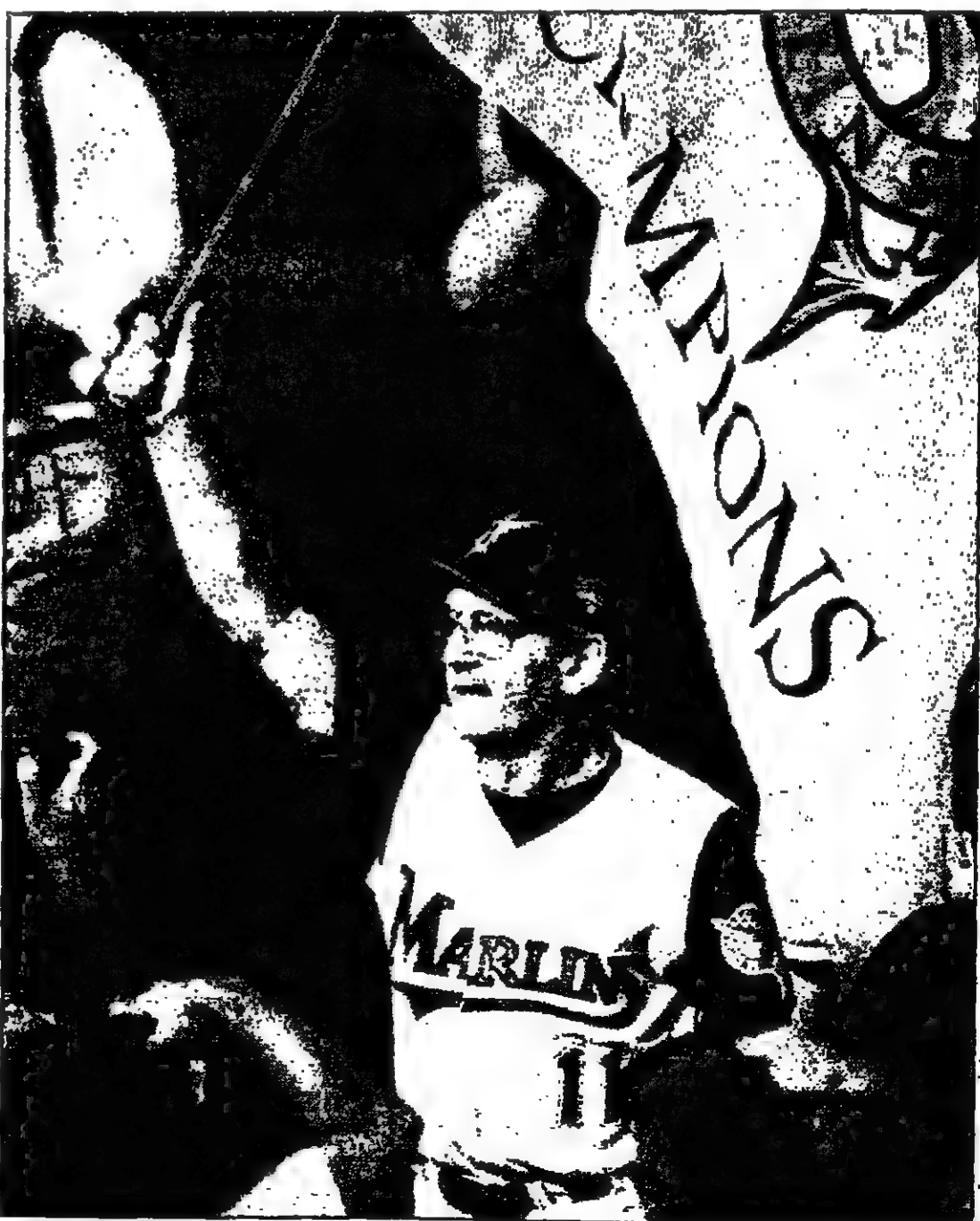
Earle Combs scored the winning run on Johnny Miljus' second wild pitch of the ninth inning, giving the Yankees a 4-3 victory over the Pittsburgh Pirates and a four-game Series sweep. Miljus had struck out Bob Meusel and Lou Gehrig with the bases full before the game-ending miscue.

1924 Washington Senators

Earl McNeely's ground ball bounced over rookie third baseman Freddie Lindstrom's head to bring home Muddy Ruel with the winning run in the Senators' 12-inning 4-3 victory that gave them the Series 4-3 over the New York Giants.

1912 Boston Red Sox

Fred Snodgrass dropped a routine fly ball in center field, setting the stage for a two-run 10th inning rally that gave the Red Sox a 3-2 victory and a 4-3 Series triumph over the New York Giants. The Giants had gone ahead with a run in the top of the 10th, but Tris Speaker's single tied the score in the bottom of the inning and Larry Gardner's sacrifice fly ended the Series.



WHO'S THE BOSS — Marlins manager Jim Leyland carries the championship flag.

(Reuters)

Return to Heartbreak Hotel

CLEVELAND (AP) — Nothing ever hurt this much.

This title-starved city watched in anguish as its best chance to win the World Series in nearly a half-century slipped away.

For long-suffering Indians fans — who have not seen their club win the World Series since 1948 and have witnessed four 100-loss seasons since 1971 — it was the hardest loss ever.

"I'm heartbroken," said Indians fans Ben Pyles. "We've waited 50 years for this and they lose it when they're two outs away. It's driving me nuts."

Pyles was one of about 2,000 people who braved a steady rain and bone-chilling cold to watch the game on giant TV screens outside at the Nautica entertainment complex in the Flats district, a neighborhood of

bars and restaurants.

Bars in the Flats and Gateway neighborhood near Jacobs Field were jammed throughout the marathon game that lasted into early Monday morning.

For most watching in this city of a half-million, it was an emotionally exhausting experience.

The mood was festive as the Indians entered the bottom of the ninth inning ahead 2-1. But things changed when Florida's Craig Counsell tied it.

At Pete & Dewey's, just beyond the center field fence of Jacobs Field, many in the standing room crowd put their heads in their hands.

Other walked in circles, stunned in disbelief. Some cursed. At Nautica, the once rowdy crowd went completely silent.

And then the tears came.

Miami paints the town teal

MIAMI (AP) — The 5-year-old Marlins bandwagon is full.

While the team's stadium was seldom full during the season, South Florida was painted in Marlins' teal Sunday night as fans celebrated the Marlins' 11th-inning come-from-behind 3-2 win over Cleveland to claim Florida's first-ever World Series.

With sales music, frozen drinks and cigars, Marlins fans began to celebrate Sunday night.

"This is absolutely incredible," said Brook Smith, 32, of Aventura, watching from a Coconut Grove bar. "We're going to party — tonight, all night, into the morning. We've got 50 people coming to my house, and we're going to tear it up."

In Little Havana, where the team's Latin players have a strong following, they were celebrating the win and Colombian Edgar Renteria's game-winning hit.

"The kid from Barranquilla, (Colombia) he came through, he came through," said Tony Gonzalez, watching the game at a Little Havana restaurant. "What an emotional moment. It is time to celebrate."

Fans poured into the streets of city neighborhoods within minutes of the win, and fire trucks drove up and down State Road A1A along the Atlantic Ocean in Fort Lauderdale honking their horns.

Fans lined Calle Ocho, the main street through Little Havana, and the sound of car

horns filled the air.

"We're going to go find (pitcher) Livan Hernandez, and we're going to smoke a big cigar," said Anthony Garcia, who was draped in an enormous teal Marlins flag. "I'm not sleeping for about three days. This is going to be a non-stop party."

At bars, patrons dumped beer on each other and broke into song.

Police were hoping celebrations didn't turn dangerous. Every available police officer that works in trendy Coconut Grove was called in to work, as bar patrons spilled out into the streets.

But Chris Petit, 21, of Miami, had no worries. "We're civilized people in Miami. It's going to be a nice atmosphere," he said.

مكازم الكحل

Schumacher vilified for race 'tactics' S. Africa win Test by 53 runs

PARIS (AP) — Michael Schumacher has been summoned to appear before an extraordinary meeting of the World Motor Sport Council, following a report from the FIA race director that the 1997 European Grand Prix, Schumacher has run into a storm of criticism after he appeared to drive his car into Villeneuve's during Sunday's Grand Prix in Jerez, Spain.

Jacques Villeneuve led a wave of criticism over the way he tried to ram his way to the world championship.

Schumacher was attacked by the media in his native Germany as well as in Italy, home of his Ferrari team, for what they called shameful driving after he seemed to turn deliberately into the Williams of title rival

Villeneuve at Sunday's European Grand Prix.

The Canadian, who survived the collision to finish the Jerez race and clinch the crown, said the former champion had "lost at his own game."

At the Australian Grand Prix in Adelaide three years ago, Schumacher — then also defending a one-point lead in the championship — collided with Damon Hill's Williams and won the championship in the most acrimonious circumstances.

The German media had little sympathy for a man usually regarded as a hero when he walks down the street in his native Rhineland. The *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* said Schumacher had used "Wild

West manners."

"The way that the Rhinelanders sought a collision with his opponent's vehicle throws a bad light on him. Gone is his image as the nice boy next door," the paper lamented.

Even the media in Italy, desperate to see Ferrari win the title again for the first time since 1979, attacked the driver.

Corriere dello Sport said: "Villeneuve, you are the legend. Schumacher, now you've got to say sorry."

"Schumi", what madness," said the headline in *Gazzetta dello Sport*.

Some of the British media, who turned on Schumacher after the 1994 incident, was equally scathing.

"Schu is the pits," the *Daily Mirror* said

in a headline. "Jacques gave Schu exactly what his trick deserved."

Even *La Stampa* newspaper, owned by the Agnelli family, which also controls Ferrari, said Schumacher was at fault.

"Schumacher's image as a champion was shattered, like a glass hit by a stone," the paper said.

Villeneuve was largely diplomatic about his rival. The Canadian talked to Schumacher after the race but they did not talk about the incident.

"Schumacher is a very good driver," he said. "I don't know him as a human being. I just know him as a driver. We didn't speak about the incident. We were into the festivities. We'll talk about it later in the year."

FAISALABAD (AP) — Shaan Pollock's four wickets in seven deliveries earned South Africa a dramatic 53-run victory over Pakistan to clinch a soggy three-Test series yesterday.

"South Africans were brilliant today and they deserved to win, especially the way Pollock bowled early in the morning and broke the backbone of our batting line-up," said Pakistani skipper Saeed Anwar.

With the first two Tests rained out, South Africa's victory yesterday made it the series' winner.

Pakistan, needing 142 runs, succumbed before Pollock's pace as the fast bowler ripped the home team batting line apart.

The procession began in the fourth over of the day when Aamer Sohail (14) mistimed a pull shot and holed out to a diving Adam Bacher at gully. Sohail was earlier dropped by the same fielder at square leg when he tried to flick Pollock an over earlier.

Pollock then made inroads into the Pakistan line-up when he had

Anwar and Ijaz Ahmed dismissed off his successive deliveries for noughts. Anwar flashed wildly to an outside off stump delivery to give wicketkeeper Daryll Cullinan a regulation catch.

Ahmed shuffled too much while facing Pollock's first delivery and was trapped leg before.

Ali Naqvi, who was struggling from the start of the fourth day, finally departed after edging Pollock straight to Daryll Cullinan in the first slip.

Pakistan's first innings top scorer Inzamam-ul-Haq lasted for only five deliveries before Brian McMillan took a fine catch at second slip as Pakistan struggled at 31 for five.

To add to Pakistan's woes, Azhar Mahmood (6) fell to Lance Klusener and Richardson's combination.

Although Wasim Akram added 17 runs for the seventh wicket with wicketkeeper batsman Khan, soon after lunch, Man of the Match Par Symcox span a web around Pakistan's tail in quick time.

Obziler wins in 1st round of Marjorie Sherman Challenger

Anna Smashnova skipped last week's national championships but returned home to top the seeds for the \$25,000 Marjorie Sherman Challenger which began yesterday at Ramat Hasharon.

After the first day's action, only one local player emerged victorious.

Tsippi Obziler beat fellow Merav Druk 6-0, 6-0.

Smashnova, 163 in the world rankings, and eighth seed Hila Rosen, take to the courts today.

Also at Ramat Hasharon courts this week are the 16th national wheelchair tennis championships. Fifty three players have entered and will play according to their level.

Favorites among the men and women are Ziv Paticha and Iris Lalo respectively. The finals will be held on Friday at 11 a.m.

This week's ATP Tour rankings released yesterday have Eyal Erlich hanging on at 165 while Eyal Ran is at 181. Raviv Weidenfeld and Oren Motevassel are third and fourth respectively at 192 and 208.

Squash: The junior national championships were held at Herzliya during Hol Hanooed Succot with repeat triumphs for the reigning champions. Nadav Wilensky beat Ron Levy 3-0 in the

boys section and Dafna Wagner beat Yael Haim, 3-0, in the girls. In third places in the two groups were Ari Galtelband and Daniela Gera.

Winning the other age groups were Lior Greenblatt (under 16),

THE LOCAL SCENE

By HEATHER CRAIG

Ilan Oren (under 14) and Eran Levy (under 12).

A few decades older is the Masters Squash Group who hold their inter-group team event this Friday. The group, which began in 1989, plays regularly on Fridays, combining training sessions and tough competitions with social weekends away, of course, near a squash court. For more information, telephone 09-744-8115.

Rhythmic gymnastics: Israel's entries in the world championships in Berlin had all the right moves. Or Tokayev finished 15th and Dina Sulima took the 17th place overall.

Golf: Players from Holland, South Africa, Spain, Germany, Turkey, Switzerland and France will tee off today alongside their

local counterparts in the four-day Israel Amateur Open Championships at Caesarea.

The monthly medal tournament was divided into four divisions. Mike Ossip took the A division with a one under par 72. Kobi Hacham was on par for second place. In the B group, Rahamin Sofer led with a par 73, with Yair Keren second on 76. Michael Firon, in the C division, had the day's lowest score, a 71. John Gainsford came in second with 73.

In the D section, Nate Kanski scored 75 for first place with Marcus Mandel second at 79.

In the Coca-Cola league, after 20 rounds, Kfar Shmaryahu is 'the real thing' with a score of 63 points. Herzliya is caught behind on 36 and Jerusalem is entrenched on 22 points.

Cycling: The Har Sdom Race combines biking at the lowest place on earth and a route among the toughest but most spectacular in Israel. The 'Tour de Sdom', now in its third year, will be held on November 8 and there is a category for everyone, whether competitive or social. The distances vary between 15-25 kilometers and all cover Nahal Parzimon, near the Dead Sea. Early registration is until November 1, telephone 07-659-4422 or 02-679-9922.

Gretzky makes his point

NEW YORK (AP) — Wayne Gretzky of the New York Rangers became the only player in NHL history to register more assists than any other NHL player has points when he set up two goals in Sunday night's 3-3 tie against the Anaheim Mighty Ducks.

Gretzky assisted on a goal by Niklas Sundstrom at 12:14 of the second period for his 1,350th career assist, equalling the overall point total of Hall-of-Famer Gordie Howe.

Then at 32 seconds of the third period, Gretzky assisted on a goal by Ulf Samuelsson for his milestone. The crowd at Madison Square Garden chanted, "Gretzky, Gretzky," and he waved his stick and gave the fans a thumbs-up sign.

Gretzky, the NHL's all-time scoring leader, now has 866 goals along with his 1,851 assists for 2,717 points.

Red Wings 5, Canucks 1

Kris Draper set up two goals and Detroit capitalized on two of three shots in the second period to coast to a home win.

Despite being outshot 7-3 in the second period, Detroit blew the game open as Mike Knuble and Gilchrist scored 78 seconds apart to give Detroit a 4-1 lead by the 6:20 mark.

National Hockey League Eastern Conference									
Atlantic Division									
Team	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA	Diff	Goalies	Record
Pittsburgh	1	3	1	15	34	28	+6	1	15-3-1
Washington	7	3	1	15	38	27	+11	1	7-3-1
NY Rangers	3	4	5	11	29	31	-2	1	3-4-5
New Jersey	3	4	0	10	25	21	+4	1	3-4-0
NY Islanders	3	4	2	8	25	24	+1	1	3-4-2
Florida	3	5	2	8	11	31	-20	1	3-5-2
Tampa Bay	2	8	2	6	21	38	-17	1	2-8-2
Northeast Division									
Pittsburgh	7	4	2	16	36	29	+7	1	7-4-2
Boston	7	4	1	15	35	30	+5	1	7-4-1
Detroit	6	3	3	13	34	29	+5	1	6-3-3
Montreal	5	3	2	12	27	18	+9	1	5-3-2
Carolina	3	7	3	9	31	41	-10	1	3-7-3
Buffalo	3	6	2	8	26	37	-11	1	3-6-2

Western Conference									
Central Division									
Team	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA	Diff	Goalies	Record
Detroit	9	1	2	20	47	22	+25	1	9-1-2
St. Louis	9	2	1	19	43	25	+18	1	9-2-1
Pittsburgh	7	4	1	15	34	26	+8	1	7-4-1
Phoenix	5	3	2	12	39	28	+11	1	5-3-2
Colorado	3	6	1	7	22	32	-10	1	3-6-1
Chicago	2	9	0	4	14	33	-19	1	2-9-0
Pacific Division									
Colorado	4	2	4	16	41	31	+10	1	4-2-4
Anaheim	4	4	3	11	24	29	-5	1	4-4-3
Los Angeles	4	5	3	11	39	37	+2	1	4-5-3
Vancouver	3	6	2	10	26	32	-6	1	3-6-2
Edmonton	4	6	1	9	27	36	-9	1	4-6-1
San Jose	3	7	0	6	26	34	-8	1	3-7-0
Calgary	1	8	2	4	25	39	-14	1	1-8-2

Sunday's results: Los Angeles 3, Tampa Bay 1; Anaheim 3, NY Rangers 3; Detroit 5, Vancouver 1; Carolina 3, Chicago 2; Phoenix 4, Buffalo 1.

Kedar quits Hap Jerusalem

By ELI GRONER

The panic button has been pushed in the capital, as Gadi Kedar resigned from his position as coach of the Hapoel Jerusalem basketball team yesterday. The resignation came after weeks of speculation regarding Kedar's future with Hapoel.

The parting of ways came just one quarter of the way through the regular National Basketball League season, with Hapoel currently mired in 11th place in the standings (2-4) after Sunday's loss to Maccabi Tel Aviv.

The dreadful season has included losses to Maccabi Kiryat Motzkin, Maccabi Ramat Gan and Maccabi Rishon LeZion, none of whom are ranked in the top five in the league standings.

Kedar will be replaced temporarily by his assistant, Oded Zehavi. Ramat Gan coach Efi Birnbaum is rumored to be the front-runner among possible permanent replacements being assessed by Hapoel's management.

SCOREBOARD
PREMIER LEAGUE SOCCER — Leicester 2 (Heskey 16, Marshall 82), West Ham 1 (Berikovic 58).

Sports Editors: Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

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מכרזים ומוכרזות

GRAPEVINE

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

A Bodyguard's nightmare

For Jews, Tuesday is traditionally regarded as the most fortuitous day of the week, but for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Wednesday of last week was decidedly his lucky day. After all the flak that Netanyahu has received in recent weeks, the demonstration of support outside his home by right-wing activists obviously warmed his heart, as evidenced by the fact that he and his wife, Sara, against the better judgment of their bodyguards, went out to shake the demonstrators' hands. If that little episode had the bodyguards jittery, what ensued in the evening was a bodyguard's nightmare. The Netanyahu family, together with their older son Yair, attended Simhat Torah services at the small and overcrowded Hovevei Zion synagogue, where the PM was honored with the first round of dancing with the Torah. The bodyguards had no choice but to get into the circle, flanking the boss on all sides. Unlike their colleagues outside the building, they didn't brandish their guns. The PM subsequently stood on the *bima*, watching the dancing and shaking hands with numerous congregants who pushed their way through to greet him. At one time, he wanted to get back into the fray but just as he was about to move off the step, a bodyguard physically pulled him back. Sara Netanyahu, standing in the center of the women's section alongside Hadassah Neeman, wife of the finance minister, kept gesturing to the PM to pick up Yair and hoist him on his shoulders, but neither Yair nor the bodyguards were in favor of the idea. Gazing upwards, the PM held out his hands and shrugged. His wife smiled. For a brief moment, they were like any other family.

heard the musicians play. The program, which includes compositions by Mozart, Schubert and Claude Bolling, will be presented by Michael Weintraub, Elinor Shulman, Gad Lewertoff, Emanuel Gruber, Orit Zelikler, Gonen Rosenberg and Idith Zvi playing flute, violin, viola, cello, double bass, drum set and piano, respectively.

WORKING at and for Jerusalem's Shaare Zedek Hospital is a Bendheim family tradition. The late New York philanthropist Charles Bendheim, who died earlier this year at the age of 80, chaired the hospital's international board for many years and used to visit the wards regularly. His daughter, Judy Guedalia, is a veteran social worker in the hospital's emergency room. Miriam Eisenberg, the 18-year-old daughter of Charles Bendheim's daughter Debbie Eisenberg and her husband, Barry, is currently doing her national service at the hospital. Her initiation into the job was horrendous: the triple terrorist bombing in Jerusalem's Ben-Yehuda mall. Now Jack Bendheim, another of Charles's offspring, serves as chairman of the hospital board.

Miriam spoke about her grandfather at last week's gala dinner for Shaare Zedek at the King David Hotel. Proceeds from the event will help improve the facilities of the emergency room. Hospital director-general Prof. Jonathan Halevy announced that the ninth-floor mother-and-child center now under construction will be named for Charles Bendheim. The event also honored Dr. Zerach Warhaftig, the longtime leader of the National Religious Party and its predecessor, Hapoel Hamizrabi. Warhaftig, who helped rescue 6,000 Holocaust survivors from Germany and took them to China and Japan and initiated the founding of Yeshivat Kerem Be'Yavne, was one of the signatories in 1948 of Israel's declaration of independence.

WHETHER Egyptian ambassador Mohammed Bassiouny attempted to engage in navel exercises with a Ramat Gan belly dancer who filed a sexual assault charge against him, will remain a matter of conjecture. Conflicting media reports will keep the gossip mongers guessing, but what will emerge from the messy and diplomatically embarrassing business is a fresh surge of affection for the ambassador's exceedingly popular wife. Throughout the two-month ordeal during which the matter was under investigation, the Bassiounys kept a high social profile, but Nagwa Bassiouny appeared to be more supportive of her husband than usual. Although the two frequently float off in different directions at social events, she has spent much more time at his side, often with her arm linked through his. "Sometimes she's taken him away from the crowd to talk to him earnestly for a few moments before being swept into another round of bright smiles, handshakes, embraces and kisses past both cheeks. Her conduct has not gone unnoticed and has earned her high marks in her ever-widening circle of friends.

EACH of the hundreds of people who turned up at Meor Modi'im for the second annual Spirit of Shlomo Carlebach music festival and arts and crafts fair was welcome, but none more so than Noam Rozenman, one of the teenagers seriously injured in last month's terrorist attack on Jerusalem's Ben-Yehuda mall. Personal friends and devoted fans of the late singing rabbi, the Rozenmans arranged a brief therapeutic furlough from Hadassah for Noam, who was taken to the festival by his father, Zvi. Carlebach's music has been an important factor in Noam's recovery process, and as soon as he regained the use of his fingers, he began strumming Carlebach tunes on his guitar. The Carlebach festival was an added contribution to Noam's welfare. He was transferred on the eve of Simhat Torah to the hospital's outpatient department. Also present at the festival, which happened to fall on Carlebach's birthday, was his younger daughter Dori, a budding photographer now studying at the Hebrew University, Jerusalem.

THE ISRAEL Chamber Orchestra will enhance the harmony of the buffet dinner which Swiss Ambassador Pierre Monod and his wife, Ninette, are hosting at their home at the end of the month. The guest list is made up largely of members of the diplomatic corps, most of whom are already familiar with the ICO. The Monods, who are avid fans, hope to introduce the ICO to those of their colleagues who have not yet

HUNGARIAN ambassador Istvan Csejtei and his wife, Idiko, invited so many hundreds of people to their Herziya Pituhah home to celebrate Hungarian National Day commemorating the 41st anniversary of the 1956 revolution that they had to have two sessions to accommodate all their guests. While they occasionally ran out of space, there was no shortage of food and drink.

Officers point out, too, that boot camp is only the first step in the troops' training, and is followed by more advanced instruction in physical and technical skills. But critics - including some senior officers, old-school non-commissioned officers and even some of the recruits themselves - wonder if "boot camp lite" is preparing the troops for the ugly, old-style combat that still may spoil the nation's end-of-century idyll.

Some critics believe a major reason for the change is a desire to attract and keep more women - an assertion the brass denies. And some traditionalists see the revisions as part of a broader and dangerous drift toward a more comfy, "civilized" military culture at a moment when the armed forces don't face the imminent threat of war, but are under pressure to attract and keep volunteers.

"The training ought to be tough, so if we send kids to Bosnia they can take anything," says Staff Sgt. Whoopi Goldberg's life is now an open book. (U.P.P.)

FREQUENTLY stumped to remember the title of a book she's looking for, Whoopi Goldberg decided to make life easy for anyone checking the book stores for a copy of her newly released autobiography. She called it *Book*. Now that's an easy one to remember. Then again, maybe not. It's so obvious, it may prove to be elusive.



In the Navy, boot camp is not as bad as it used to be.

(Debbi Cooper)

Boot camp lite

By PAUL RICHTER

Recruits who stepped off of line at the Navy's boot camp at the Great Lakes naval base in Illinois, used to find the reaction swift and rough: a good tongue-lashing from the instructor, lots and lots of push-ups and occasionally a special humiliation, such as a lap around the base with a pair of underpants flapping from their heads.

But that's not what Travis Bullard found when the Navy recently decided he needed some extra motivation. He was packed off to a "personal applied skills" class, where he was offered emotional support, instructed on deep breathing and stress reduction and given a chance to explore his feelings by pasting cut-out magazine photos on a piece of cardboard.

"These instructors, it turns out they're really nice guys," says Bullard, a gentle, gangling 20-year-old from tiny Hackett, Ark. Welcome to the boot camp of the 1990s. As memories of Cold War foes and foxholes fade, the military is stripping away the sharp edges and hard knocks from this fabled test of manhood.

Profanity, rough handling and embarrassment of recruits are strictly forbidden; confidence-building, teamwork and mutual support are the order of the day. Marches with heavy packs and hand-to-hand combat training are giving way to instruction on personal values, rape prevention and technical training. No longer do instructors follow the time-honored doctrine of using fear and intimidation to break down recruits and rebuild them to provide unquestioning obedience. Now, as Army regulations put it, the goal is to honor "the dignity and respect of the individual." Troops are encouraged to question authority - up to a point, anyway - in keeping with a philosophy that may owe as much to corporate employee-training guides as to the Napoleonic field manual.

The Pentagon believes the new approach is the best way to turn a balky, rarely spanked generation into volunteer "warrior technicians" who may well need to know more about complex electronic equipment than foxhole survival. The military brass insists that boot camp is just as challenging as ever, but in different ways. Physical demands may be lighter, but mental requirements are far greater. Recruits are taught how to think and solve problems, and how to deal with the emotional problems that in the past drove recruits away, or in rare cases - to suicide.

The physical demands have been changed, military leaders say, to avoid injuries, and because the military's physiologists believe that too much workout in the relatively brief span of a boot camp will punish their bodies without really making them stronger.

Officers point out, too, that boot camp is only the first step in the troops' training, and is followed by more advanced instruction in physical and technical skills. But critics - including some senior officers, old-school non-commissioned officers and even some of the recruits themselves - wonder if "boot camp lite" is preparing the troops for the ugly, old-style combat that still may spoil the nation's end-of-century idyll.

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"The training ought to be tough, so if we send kids to Bosnia they can take anything," says Staff Sgt.

Daniel Jackson, a drill instructor at Fort Knox, Ky., home of the Army's armored forces. "I'm not sure all the kids I send to graduation should be crossing that stage." The issue has stirred enough debate that a congressional panel is looking into it. Even the Army's house organ, *Soldiers* magazine, recently asked: "Has basic training gone soft?"

Not long ago, the recruit asking why he had been ordered to perform some task would be told, for instance: "Because I said so!" Now instructors are to explain the rationale behind each order, so recruits learn to think and understand and carry on willingly.

"They've always got a question," sighs Chief Petty Officer 1st

Class Garry McClure. "Whatever it is, they want to discuss it and discuss it some more." Not surprisingly, some drill instructors are chafing. "The DIs feel almost handcuffed, like they can't do anything," says Command Sgt. Maj. William H. Brooks Jr., who oversees dozens of drill instructors at Fort Knox.

Great Lakes' boot camp commander, Capt. Cory D. Whitehead, sent 31 instructors packing last year because she didn't think they were properly adjusting to the new order. Now officers at the boot camp roam the base watching for DIs' infractions. To curtail possible mistreatment or sexual harassment - a major problem in the military today - drill instructors work in glass-walled offices so their behavior can be observed.

The DI of the '90s serves as counselor as much as disciplinarian - talking to recruits about military issues, careers and matters of the heart. Navy boot camp instructors say they spend hours each day dispensing advice to the curious, confused, homesick and lovelorn.

The Navy used to frighten recruits on arrival day with bold-lettered signs threatening that they could be jailed for up to five years, and fined up to \$10,000, if they didn't disclose past behavior that might disqualify them for service. The signs are gone.

Now, the Navy and the Air Force give recruits a special "Recruit Bill of Rights" card assuring them of the organization's concern for their well-being, and telling them who to complain to if they feel they've been a target of sexual harassment, discrimination or other mistreatment.

In the Navy, trainees who can't follow orders, control their temper or get along with people of different gender or race are sent to the one-week "personal applied skills" program. The course, developed by a corporate consultant, has handled about 600 recruits since it began a year ago, and 99 percent of them were funneled back to finish boot camp.

The physical demands at those camps also are not what they used to be. Uncomfortable combat boots and stiff uniforms have given way to athletic shoes and light cotton sweat clothes.

At Fort Knox, recruits once marched in formation from spot to spot, but now pile on buses to be carried between training locations.

Hand-to-hand combat training has been scaled back to a single four-hour class where soldiers sim-

ulate martial-arts moves, rather than land blows that might injure them. At Navy boot camps, the grinding regimen of marching, push-ups and rifle drills is gone. The heavy rifles were packed away last year, marching has been cut to four miles a day, and the workout routine is three half-hour outings each week.

Recruits spend more than 40 hours some weeks in lecture-hall settings, and many more hours in hands-on training in such areas as firefighting and basic nautical skills. If this makes them less rugged than their predecessors, the leadership says that the challenges they will face are far different from those of recruits in years past.

On the older generation of Navy destroyers, 40 percent of the crew was devoted to grinding labor. They needed to be obedient and brawny, but their jobs didn't require a lot of initiative. On the latest ships only about 10 percent carry out this kind of labor, while the remainder have assigned more mentally demanding tasks.

Training officials point out, too, that boot camp is not the end, but the beginning, of the recruit's military education. Troops get a lot more technical training in advanced courses, and those who are likely to go into combat are prepared with instruction to sharpen their fighting skill and endurance.

Some members of Congress have been registering concerns about the new boot camp. Rep. Stephen E. Buyer, R-Ind., chairman of the House National Security Committee's personnel subcommittee, has pushed Congress to investigate the question more closely after a tour of training centers this year in which he found a "loss of warrior spirit and esprit" that was disappointing to him. Military officials say there's been no higher post-training washout rate or other indication that boot camp hasn't prepared recruits properly. But some critics say the shortcomings might not be apparent until a later, critical moment.

"I would trust my life to people who were trained the old way," said Chief Petty Officer Brinley Billings, a Great Lakes instructor. "But we won't know how the new system works for years, until these kids are out in the fleet." (Los Angeles Times)

From spree to shining spree

Leave it to El Al to come up with the most Israeli of vacations. This autumn, they devised a trip that eliminates all those pesky, unnecessary elements of international travel and allow you to get right to the point.

I mean, how many times have you gone to London and asked yourself, Do I really have to wander around this city and look at all those boring old art and history museums? After all, we've got lots of old stuff in Israel.

Plenty of pretty pictures, too. This I could do at home.

Castles? Well, I can always go check out the big mansions in Savoyon or Kfar Shmaryahu. Almost the same thing. And the women in these ritzy neighborhoods tend to wear so much jewelry, there's no reason to ship to the Tower of London to see the crown jewels, either.

Theater is all well and good, but after all, in London, you gotta watch it in English. Why not just wait for Habimah or the Cameri to come out with the same production in Hebrew, or see it at Gesher with a Russian accent?

As for dining, well, we've got McDonald's in Israel now, so there's no reason to fly to London anymore to eat a hamburger. And let's face it, British cuisine is nothing to write home about anyway. Fish and chips? Yorkshire pudding? Giving it up is no big sacrifice.

shot at the starting gate: the beginning of a breathless marathon up and down the aisles of Marks and Spencer and Harrods, buying the stores up - with no time to eat or rest until the shops close at 6.

According to the woman who took the trip, the group tends to stick close to one another in the stores. Why? "Well, there's a lot of competition. People like to look at what everybody else is buying and see who got the best bargain." One has to pity the poor sales clerks.

Then, afterwards, no leisurely dinner, no show, no relaxing in the hotel, no people-watching in Leicester Square.

What would be the point? You've got your huge sack of acquisitions, you want to get them home as quickly as possible, right? So you grab a quick bite to eat, if you're lucky, and then head back to the airport to catch a midnight flight to the Holy Land, dragging your bag with you.

Then you are back at Ben-Gurion airport, where the customs agents are just waiting for you, rubbing their hands with anticipation.

Would I go on such a trip? I don't know. The whole thing sounds like an exercise in exhaustion to me. If I rose at the hour required to catch a 6 a.m. flight, I would probably be found sound asleep in the dressing room of one of the Oxford Street department stores. Some

Home Front



Allison Kaplan Sommer

El Al flies you out of Ben-Gurion Airport at the crack of dawn, gives you a huge shopping bag as you step off the plane, and delivers you - plunk - in the middle of Oxford Street ready to start spending money by 8 a.m.

So, realizing that none of the above was particularly important to the Israeli traveler, El Al booted a typical Israeli visit to London down to its most basic element: a frenzied one-day shopping orgy. It reminds me of a TV show in the United States where they put contestants in a grocery store and gave them exactly two minutes to run through the store, stuffing as many products as possible into their shopping cart.

El Al flies you out of Ben-Gurion Airport at the crack of dawn, gives you a huge shopping bag as you step off the plane, and delivers you - plunk - in the middle of Oxford Street ready to start spending money by 8 a.m.

Now, as one woman who took the trip said, most stores don't open until nine or ten, so for the first hour one looks like a homeless person, wandering aimlessly around the street dragging a suitcase. The opening of the stores must be like a

poor El Al employee would have to put me in a shopping bag and haul me back to the plane.

And nine hours of shopping? My feet start to ache after just two or three - and that's after I've had a full night's sleep.

But for inveterate shoppers, particularly those who have very little vacation time, it's really not such a bad idea. Probably, if one shopped correctly, one could save enough money to justify the \$330 airfare.

Now you could argue that it would take a lot less time and hassle to simply pay more money for various products and buy them here in Israel. But then when someone complimented you on your outfit, you couldn't casually respond with, "Oh, this thing? I picked it up in London last week. It caught my eye on Oxford Street and I just had to have it."

After all, isn't the ability to make that kind of remark what travel is all about?

Long-distance love meets reality

Dear Ruthie. My Israeli boyfriend and I have been involved in a long-distance relationship for the past three years. We met while he was on a trip to the US, and we have been writing to each other, talking on the phone and visiting one another since then regularly.

I finally decided to come to Israel for a year to see whether we are really compatible. I took a leave of absence from my job, and moved to Eilat, where my boyfriend runs a business. I have been here for about three months now, and things are not going as well as I'd expected. Not knowing the language, I have not been able to find proper employment. My boyfriend is very busy with his work. I find myself extremely bored, and basically living in a peculiar state of limbo. I have left everything behind, and yet I don't seem to have anything here - except for him - to keep me occupied or interested.

My boyfriend wants us to get married as soon as I make up my mind. But I don't know how to do that. I love him, but I am not at all sure that I can live this way. He says that once we start having children, I will have something important to occupy myself with. But I have always been an independent woman, and this doesn't sound inviting. I mean, I want to have children, but I don't want them to be my sole reason for getting up in the morning.

On the other hand, I know that if I return home, I will miss him terribly, as I have for all of these years. What can I do?

In Love and at a Loss Dear Eilat at a Loss. While having children may alleviate your sense of being unsettled somewhat, it is not likely to cure your

boredom. On the contrary, caring for a baby all day can give even the most self-sufficient mother the sense that she is alone on the planet. Nor will it contribute to your learning the language - at least not until your children are school age.

If you do not wish to forfeit the love you share with your boyfriend, you have two choices: either convince him to return with you to the US, or make a decision to throw yourself into the society in which you now find yourself. Convincing your friend to leave his natural habitat, however, may lead to problems for him similar to those which you are currently experiencing, in spite of the slight advantage he may have of reading and writing in English.

Immersing yourself into Israeli culture can be done in a number of ways. First, you can enroll in Hebrew classes, and consider this your "job" for the time being. This would at least give you a sense of purpose, and contribute to your ability to communicate with non-English speakers. It will also prepare you for any employment you later seek. Above all, it will give you time to live in the company of your boyfriend on a daily basis, so you can find out if marrying him is what you really want. Perhaps you will discover that your romance was only good when it was conducted long-distance. Or, conversely, maybe you will find yourself ready and willing to tie the proverbial knot.

Keep in mind that either discovery on your part will be beneficial with regard to making a decision based on something other than gut feelings.

Letters should be addressed to: "Dear Ruthie," POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem. For E-mail: editors@jpost.co.il

Dear Ruthie



Ruthie Blum

Acre: Parting from the fringe

By HELEN KAYE

Except for the rain, nothing unseemly happened at the Acre Theater Festival this year. Even Ehud Barak's presence at one of the plays caused no more than a little flutter. It was all as genteel as a tea party.

That was the trouble. Acre is supposed to go out on that limb, or try to. That's why Oded Kotler established the festival 18 years ago. It's full name is the Festival of Alternative Theater; alternative, in your face politically and theatrically. This year there wasn't even a murmur of politics, a whisper of controversy.

Acre was also conceived as a showcase for young talent. The competition prizes this year all went to established stars and although there is a young talent framework (The Hamamra), it's not very different from the veterans.

Cohen's trenchant IDF-based drama about the dangers of myth makes no attempt at gloss.

Yosef Carmon is a fine actor, but as a director he has a lot to learn. He directed *POW* (Shavui) by Yossi Hadar, forgetting that to act means to do. The trouble with acting emotions is that immediacy gets lost and the audience becomes a voyeur at best.

The play, a poor Pirandello forgery, tells the same story of a POW's disappearance into and return from a Syrian prison, from two couples' point of view. The play whines and so do the actors, giving such self-indulgent performances that one actor actually cried.

Another poor play was *Artan* which, nonetheless, won Best Play for its author, Daniella Carmi. Poor, because although, like a Chekhov play, *Artan* is built on a series of changing circumstances, unlike Chekhov, it has no



Ofra Levy's 'Tales of Tonglan' explores the human soul. (Koko)

The shows at Acre were designed to be experienced in the extraordinary spaces of the Crusader castle. Today it's the rare show that doesn't have LBA (Life Beyond Acre), and you'll be able to see most of them at the Fringe Center in Tel Aviv or at the repertory theaters.

The one show that at least shined up the trunk toward the limb was choreographer Ofra Levy's *Tales of Tonglan*, which won honorable mention in the Best Production category. Hers is a straight dance-theater piece, spare, poetic and demanding. It uses two actors, four models and Levy herself to inquire into the nature of mercy, to show the frailty of the fleshly envelope and the soul inside it.

The Best Production winner at the festival was *The Alley of White Chairs* by Gabi Eldor and Igal Ezrati, who have worked together for many years. Like the house in Gilles de Rais' *Dead Souls* at this year's Israel Festival, the Jaffa "alleyway" was the backdrop for interlocking stories, a Romeo-and-Juliet love story between two feuding families, the return from Jordan of an Arab who had fled the house in '48 and so on. But whereas Maheu's house was a character in the lives of its itinerant dwellers, Eldor and Ezrati turn their alleyway into merely a venue, which is a pity.

White Chairs is more than just a story. It's a metaphor for Arab-Jewish and Jewish-Jewish relations. It is no coincidence that the fruited orange tree central to the set hangs upside down. The show is wonderful theater with passionate performances and striking visual and aural effects, especially the reiterated, rhythmical shaking of flat trays of rice.

"I mostly cut," said Best Director Zaharim Harifai of her work on *Fragments* (Resisim). Sensibly she lets the text do the work, and the actors concentrate on bringing it to the audience without much explanation. The death of a child is idiotic, whether as a hero in action or from a self-inflicted wound, and Ephraim

internal logic to bind it.

The play features the ebb and flow of interdependencies between two women, both former patients, locked in the storeroom of a mental institution for the night. However, *Artan* is saved by Revital Eytan's well-paced and intelligent direction, by good acting from Regine Shushan-Tchida, and superb characterization from Best Actress Ofra Weingarten.

Among the young artists in the Hamamra (Hothouse) section, there is an exciting find called Oren Lavi, the writer, composer and director of *Spokes in the Wheel*, a musical about the emotional growth of a young paraplegic that won its creator Best Production, as did a cheeky satire on self-fulfilling prophecy (or what bred Rabin's murder), called *Stepan* for its writer and director Roni Sinai.

Katarina, by and starring Idit Zur, based on the novel of that name by Aharon Appelfeld, would have worked better had Zur and director Gideon Shemer understood that the conflict is one of faith, both Christian and Jewish. *Lallo*, a tacky sex farce by Esteban Gottfried, despite some marvelous performances, doesn't even belong in Acre.

And yet, accidentally I'm sure, the Acre plays, almost all of which dealt directly or indirectly with death and/or the media, seemed to indicate their creators' deep disillusionment with the present, the pain of betrayals, and even fear that the old Israeli mantra "Yihye beseder" ("it'll be all right") won't work any more.

Perhaps that's why artistic director Itzik Weingarten, who won't head the festival next year, was so pleased with it.

The other major winners were: Best Actor, Shraga Harpaz (*Fragments*); David Kigler (*Lallo*), set design; Lily Ben-Nahshon (*Katarina*), lighting; Phyllis Ross (*POW*), costume; Rakefet Levy (*Story of Tonglan*), music; Samar Azar, Yuval Messner, Shosh Reisman (*Alley of White Chairs*).

IN TUNE

Sex, 'Rope' and rock & roll

By DAVID BRINN

There hasn't been anybody since Prince who makes R&B as sizzlingly sensual as Janet Jackson on *The Velvet Rope*.

Ostensibly a self-help encounter weekend set to music, *The Velvet Rope* is a metaphor for the internal barriers people erect to hide their true selves. Jackson's message seems to be "free your body and your mind will follow."

She transmits this message in a two-pronged attack: an almost nonstop barrage of groove-laden dance music that defies listeners to stay seated, and a healthy fixation with sex.

At least half of the songs on this sprawling 77-minute tour de force deal with matters of pleasure, ranging from playful masturbatory interludes to more serious roasting fantasies.

But what could be reduced to sleazy *Penthouse* material is rescued by Jackson and collaborators Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis's undiluted pop vision.

They achieve the nearly impossible task of making Joni Mitchell sound soulful by sampling "Big Yellow Taxi" on the rap-and-roll single "Got 'Til It's Done." Elsewhere, Jackson enters Alanis

THE VELVET ROPE

Janet Jackson

(Helicon)

HOMOGENIC

Bjork

(Helicon)

PORTISHEAD

Portishead

(Helicon)

Morrissette territory for the scalding tirade against a cheating lover on "What About." The anti-homophobic scorch "Free Xone" is the standout dance track, replete with perfectly placed samples of Archie Bell & The Drell's classic "Tighten Up."

There are plenty of G-rated songs, where Jackson attempts an emotional catharsis but only manages to come up with lines like "We all have the need to feel special."

The pop ballads, while head and shoulders above Whitney and Mariah, often sound sweet and sappy next to the sass Jackson generates on the steamier tracks.

It's evident from *The Velvet Rope* that when it comes to late 1990s mastery of dance music that makes you think, Janet is the Jackson who sets the standard.

BJORK is one artist who deserves the label "alternative." Utilizing a virtual kitchen sink of effects like a foghorn and a martial military beat, the one-time singer for The Sugarcubes proves on her third



'Free your body and your mind will follow' seems to be Janet Jackson's message.

solo album, *Homogenic*, that she marches to her own drum.

Dark, dense and swirling, Bjork's songs neither begin nor end.

They just emerge from the foggy shadows and retreat from whence they came.

She sings the tunes in her bell-like voice like she's reading a poem on a smoke-filled beatnik club stage, exaggerating words and accentuating the unexpected.

Her knack is making the inaccessible accessible. Most of the songs lack traditional pop struc-

ture, instead relying on a combination of free-form jazz influences and electronic blips which lend a fitting austerity to Bjork's minimalist and often humorous lyrics.

Inspirational line - "I thought I could organize freedom. How Scandinavian of me."

TURN the drum machine on slow, take a valium and watch James Bond in *Goldfinger* for musical inspiration. That seems to be the recipe for Portishead's self-titled second album.

Following a highly acclaimed debut *Dummy* in 1994, which set the tone for much of today's triphop, this follow-up reveals a one-song band mired in claustrophobia.

The same syncopated beat, the same bored, detached vocals of Beth Gibbons which sound like they're funneled through a megaphone, and the same '60s spy-film orientation make listening to Portishead an exercise in endurance.

Even 007 would have taken his hidden cyanide pill.

West End's regards from Broadway

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

The Phantom of the Opera, *Miss Saigon*, *Sunset Boulevard*, *Cats*, *Chess*, *Oliver*, *My Fair Lady*. The names themselves can send shivers down the spine of anyone who is infatuated with the genre of the Broadway and (London) West End musical. But Israelis who enjoy the marvels of the musical usually have to travel abroad to see full-fledged musicals on the stage. Here in Israel, many musicals have been presented in recent years, but spectacular productions of American and British musicals have yet to reach us.

For those willing to enjoy a first-rate substitute, the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra offers West End: The Concert, a scintillating evening of the greatest hits of the musicals, performed by four singing actors who grace the stages of the West End on a regular basis.

West End: The Concert is not just the name of the upcoming ISO evening, it is also the name of the company inaugurated three years ago by producer Gary Brown and conductor Martin Yates. The first performance of West End: The Concert took place with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra and since then they have performed with orchestras all over Europe, as well as recording an exciting disc on the TER label, with Volume 2 coming out shortly.

The idea of West End: The Concert is simple and effective. Yates brings with him four singers (two males and two females), and together they revel in presenting an evening of musical show hits.

The upcoming concert in Jerusalem features West End: The Concert veterans Kim Criswell, known for her great performances on stage and disc of Annie Oakley in *Annie Get Your Gun*; and James Graeme, who has performed the title role in *The Phantom of the Opera* and is cur-



Kim Criswell is a veteran of West End: The Concert, which was inaugurated by Martin Yates.



rently playing Pontius Pilate in the new production of *Jesus Christ Superstar* in London's West End. They are joined by Andrew Halliday, whose West End credits include Raoul in *The Phantom of the Opera*, Stein in *City of Angels* and Munketrap in *Cats*, as well as Deborah Myers, who has sung Julie Jordan in *Carousel* and Tuptim in *The King and I*.

The Jerusalem premiere of West End: The Concert is the opening concert of the JSO Popular Classics, a new series aimed at drawing new and younger audiences to the concert hall, featuring film music, popular Russian music, an evening of Viennese waltzes, and a program of Gershwin among others.

Opening such a series with

highlights from the world of the musical sounds very promising. After all, it is a genre enjoyed by many who do not frequent the concert hall that often. At the same time, there is much in common between the musical and the opera, whether fans of either genre are aware of it or not.

The upcoming concert is an attempt to find out more about the wonderful world of the musical and to realize that it is one of the greatest forms of entertainment. In effect, it is the opera of our time. After all, today's leading opera stars sing selections from musicals on a regular basis, if not on stage then at least on disc.

And today's musicals are usually sung through, as if they were operas. These musicals are often based on the operas of the past

and use a form of operatic language, albeit clad in a more popular music style. *Les Miserables* and *The Phantom of the Opera*, for example, are two of the most popular operas of the day.

Like all forms of entertainment in the MTV age, the musical is also searching for its identity. At times this search is more successful than at others, but on the whole there is no doubt that the musicals of today are operatic in scope and style and require performers who are versatile in acting, dancing, and singing in both classical and popular modes.

West End: The Concert is presented tomorrow at the Sherover Theater in Jerusalem and on Thursday at the Jerusalem International Convention Center.

CONCERT ROUNDUP

Serene Mozart, powerful Mahler

In a long but fulfilling evening of music-making, the IPO played superbly under the baton of Zubin Mehta. But Mahler's Ninth Symphony can maintain an entire program and should not be coupled with another piece.

Solo violinist Midori's rendition of Mozart's Third Violin Concerto was captivating. Hers was a

Israel Philharmonic plays Mozart and Mahler, Maan Auditorium, Tel Aviv, October 28

serene, yet lyrically sad reading. Midori showed grace, depth, sensitivity and sincerity in her playing, particularly in the middle (slow) movement.

Many tend to play Mozart in a vivacious, even lighthearted manner. But Midori opted for a purer, warm and poetic interpretation. This was Mozart at its captivating best.

An impressive reading of Mahler's last completed symphony, showcased the IPO's first-rate strings. In Mehta's reading the enormous power of the music came through in a most exciting and revealing way.

Michael Ajzenstadt

THE programming of this year's Abu Ghosh Festival was most intriguing. But two of the festival's programs suggested that the program alone is not a guarantee of a success. In separate performances, the Ra'anana Symphonette Orchestra accompanied two local choirs in two major, though seldom performed, choral works. But while the performance of the Cherubini Requiem was magical, that of Puccini's *Messa di Gloria* was so bad it was annoying. Both concerts were played in front of a church packed with enthusiastic music lovers who never ceased to applaud. Both featured the same orchestra but the difference was in the conductor and the choir he brought with him.

Michael Shani led his Tel Aviv Chamber Choir in a penetrating and riveting rendition of the Cherubini C minor Requiem. He managed to create the right balance between orchestra and choir, and under his direction the choir projected with ease and charm one of

Cherubini and Puccini at the Abu Ghosh Festival, October 23, 24

the gems of the choral repertoire. The performance showcased the choir at its best: a cohesive ensemble which is versatile enough to sing a large varied repertoire in a most attractive manner. And under Shani the orchestra presented a more than adequate reading of the score. In short it was a glorious concert of choral music.

But when Yuval Ben-Ozer mounted the podium to perform Puccini's *Messa di Gloria* with the Philharmonia Singers, all was amiss. This beautiful gem by a young Puccini was presented in a harsh, obtrusive reading that showed total disrespect for the music and a lack of understanding of its style. Ben-Ozer controlled neither orchestra nor chorus. The orchestra, which had sounded near perfect under Shani, here was so bad it was embarrassing; the choir was out of balance and out of tune.

Michael Ajzenstadt

"*DIE Schöne Müllerin*" by Schubert is a simple story of yearning, hope, brief happiness and rejected love. It flows and rushes like a stream, along which it all happens. It is the stream, the merry and knowing companion, which leads a young boy to a beautiful miller-maid; it is the stream, to which he confides his feelings, and which gives him last refuge when he commits suicide.

Wolfgang Holzmair has a fine baritone, his articulation is clear, the phrasing natural and the performance, on the whole, meticulously polished. His singing has vastly improved in the last two years since his appearance at the Israel Festival.

But Holzmair's musicianship is so introverted, his artistry is so reserved that he almost never allows himself an outburst of emotions. What a pity. Holzmair's *Müllerin* was a peaceful creek, rather than a lively brook, reflecting the everchanging mood of the 20 little gems of Schubert's song cycle.

Imogen Cooper at the piano produced a tender support for the soloist; her playing suited Holzmair's style to perfection. But neither presented the audience with the sparkle for which it longed so much.

Maxim Reider

TOWER RECORDS' TOP 15

THIS LAST WEEKS ON	WEEK	WEEK	CHARTS	ARTIST	TITLE
#1	1	23		EYAL GOLAN	WITHOUT YOU
#2	4	10		SHABAK SAMECH	BATIFA SHIEL MAMTAK
#3	4	5		GIDI GOV	SHIRIM SHELL
#4	2	4		SHLOMO ARTZI	LIVE
#5	7	9		BACKSTREET BOYS	BACKSTREET'S BACK
#6	6	16		RAMI KLEINSTEIN	KOL MA SHETRITZI
#7	3	13		EVYATAR BANAI	EVYATAR BANAI
#8	9	36		YEHUDA POLKER	LIVE
#9	11	2		THE VERVE	URBAN HYMNS
#10	15	17		TEA PACKS	NESHIKA LA DOD
#11	20	12		ARIK EINSTEIN	LEVAN PARHU
#12	13	3		VIA	VOLUME 13
#13	RE	1		OST	ADVENTURES OF PRISCILLA
#14	RE	3		MATI CASPI	LIVE
#15	RE	1		RAMI KLEINSTEIN	COLLECTION

Tower Records' top-selling albums for last week

מקראם התחיל

Serene Mozart, powerful Mahler

...a long but fulfilling evening of music-making, the IPO played superbly under the baton of conductor Mehta. But Mahler's Ninth Symphony can maintain an emotional grip and should not be counted as another piece.

...violinist Miodon's rendition of Mozart's Third Violin Concerto captivated. Here was a

...yet lyrically sad reading. Miodon showed grace, depth, sensitivity and sincerity in her playing, particularly in the middle movement.

...tend to play Mozart as a cautious, even lighthearted man. But Miodon opted for a more dramatic and poetic interpretation of Mozart at its captivating.

...impressive reading of Miodon's last completed symphony showcased the IPO's first-class musicians. In Miodon's reading, the enormous power of the music came through in a most exciting and moving way.

...programming of this performance by Ghosh Festival was more than adequate. But the IPO's programming is not a guarantee of quality. In separate performances, the orchestra has been praised for its playing in two different contexts. In the first, the orchestra was praised for its playing in a concert hall. In the second, it was praised for its playing in a more intimate setting.

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CRITICS' CHOICE

ENGLISH THEATER

HELEN KAYE

The last performance in English and Hebrew of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* performed by the Sharon Players, the Ra'anana Youth Theater and Theater Group, the Kolot Choir and dancers, all directed by Maxine Ray. Tonight at Yad Lebanim in Ra'anana at 8:30 p.m.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

The Tel Aviv Museum Rush-hour Concert series opens this evening (6) with obolists Dudu Carmel and Joel Lifshitz, bassoonist Maurizio Paez, and harpsichordist Shalev Ad-El playing sonatas and trio sonatas by Handel and Zelenka.

The Israel Museum Jerusalem Music in the Galleries program features this evening (6) violinist Yehuda Ben-Ari, violinist Alexander Tomarinson and cellist Boris Michanovsky at the Impressionist Gallery. Free with museum admission.

The Kibbutz Chamber Orchestra, conducted by Doron Solomon, performs Rossini's *Stabat Mater*, with soloists including Israeli soprano Sharon Rostorf, Tonight in Kimaron, Beit She'an; tomorrow in Megiddo; Thursday in Nahariya (8:30). The program also features Bizet's *L'Arlesienne* suite.

TELEVISION

ELANA CHIPMAN

There have been 17 movies made with Ian Fleming's character James Bond, the British secret agent 007. James Bond is probably cinema's most popular hero. The lifestyle and the gadgetry bond displayed on the silver screen have become the fashion over the years. Channel 1 has acquired every one of the films and will be airing them in chronological order on Tuesday nights, beginning tonight at 10 with *Dr. No*.

Sean Connery, as Bond, is sent to Jamaica to investigate the death of a British agent and discovers that a mysterious scientist named Dr. No has built a secret laboratory on a neighboring island and is nursing megalomaniacal plans to take over the world.

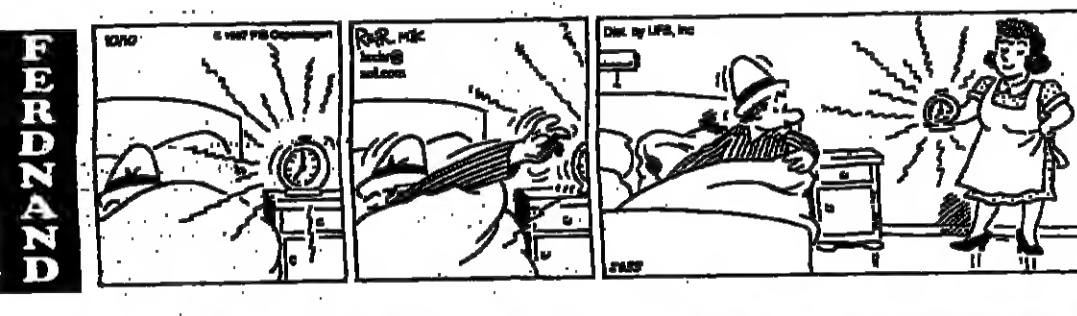


Sean Connery can be seen as 007 in 'Dr. No.' (Universal Pictorial)

FILM

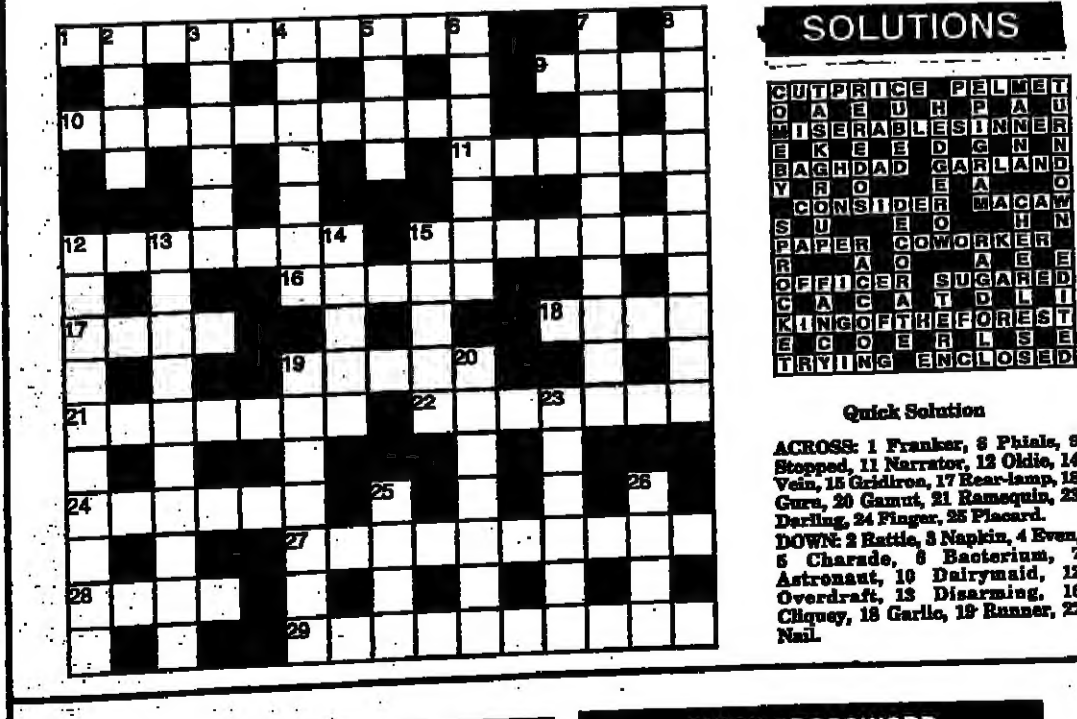
ADINA HOFFMAN

*** THE PEACEMAKER - In its unabashedly formulaic and commercial way, this first film by the DreamWorks studio is an entertaining bit of pseudo-realistic escapism. The movie stars George Clooney and Nicole Kidman as an intelligence officer in the US Army's Special Forces and a White House nuclear expert, respectively, but on the trail of a batch of stolen nuclear warheads being smuggled through Eastern Europe toward some unknown terrorist target. Directed by Miami Leder, who got her start behind the camera on *ER*, the picture blends action and emotion in careful measure and with more than a few tricks borrowed from that successful TV show. To her credit, Leder seems more interested in continuous motion than she does in violence per se. The movie has its fair share of high-speed car chases, sudden shoot-outs and late-night train hijackings, although for the most part she prefers to steer our gaze away from the really grizzly stuff and cut to what matters on a narrative level. With the Romanian actor Marcel Iures as a surprisingly human bad guy. (English dialogue with some Russian and Serbo-Croatian, Hebrew subtitles. Children under 17 not admitted without an adult.)



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- Learn a craft? He's bound to (10)
 - Arab prince recalls Ancient Egyptian story (4)
 - The scale of EEC trading abroad (10)
 - Arrive to put a map away? (4,2)
 - Messenger has a job getting in beer (7)
 - Belt on smart bluebottle (7)
 - Give up interest in shares (5)
 - Secures inconclusive results (4)
 - The charge is about right, but you don't have to pay (4)
 - Legal actions? (5)
 - Smarter French painter (7)
- DOWN**
- Look for exercise record (4)
 - A trio's broken relationship (6)
 - Regularly late? Yet sounding chivalrous (7)
 - Outbreak of rain in the country (4)
- ACROSS**
- 6 Gemstone—a dealer maybe holds a number (7)
 - 7 Quite enough out of school (10)
 - 8 An early settlement (10)
 - 9 Stagnates, due to ill-fitting satin shoes (10)
 - 10 Too far into no-man's land? (4,3,3)
 - 11 Dis duck—or dat? (5)
 - 12 It cuts a dashing figure (5)
 - 13 Wastes the rewards (7)
 - 14 The case for school books (7)
 - 15 Train for Rugby, for example (6)
 - 16 He's against the proposal and can't go to change (4)
 - 17 Eager to work in silver (4)



- ACROSS**
- 1 Sedate (5)
 - 4 Yet (5)
 - 10 Coach (7)
 - 11 Glowing coal (5)
 - 12 Expert (5)
 - 13 Disfigured (7)
 - 15 Otherwise (4)
 - 17 Commerce (5)
 - 19 Letter (5)
 - 22 Afters (4)
 - 25 Medical treatment (7)
 - 27 Santa village (5)
 - 29 Crunchy (5)
 - 31 Nimble (5)
 - 32 Viper (5)
- DOWN**
- 2 Torment (5)
 - 3 Set on fire (7)
 - 5 Greek letter (5)
 - 6 Generous (7)
 - 7 Ermine (5)
 - 8 Flagrant (5)
 - 9 Arrogance (5)
 - 14 Yield (4)
 - 16 Bound (4)
 - 18 Staggering (7)
 - 20 Clumsy (7)
 - 21 Adhere (5)
 - 23 Divine maiden (5)
 - 24 Swift (5)
 - 26 Horrific (5)
 - 28 Proverb (5)

TV

- CHANNEL 1**
- 6:30 News flash
 - 6:31 News in Arabic
 - 6:45 Good Morning Israel
- EDUCATIONAL TV**
- 8:00 On computers and Internet
 - 8:30 Art Workshop
 - 8:35 Science and Nature
 - 10:00 For the very young
 - 11:00 English
 - 12:00 French
 - 12:30 Science and Technology
 - 13:00 Geography
 - 13:30 Cartoons
 - 15:00 Auto
- CHANNEL 1**
- 15:30 Pink Panther
 - 15:55 Super Ben
 - 16:00 Dennis and Gnasher
 - 16:25 Super Ben
 - 16:30 The Mask
 - 16:55 A New Evening
 - 17:34 Zap 1
 - 18:05 Super Ben
 - 18:15 News in English
- MIDDLE EAST TV**
- 7:00 TV Shop
 - 14:30 Body Electric
 - 15:00 Basic Training
 - 15:30 The 700 Club
 - 16:00 Larry King
 - 17:00 Arthur
 - 17:25 Madeline
 - 17:45 Babar
 - 18:10 Beakman's World
 - 18:35 Saved by the Bell
 - 19:00 Showbiz
 - 19:30 World News Tonight (Arabic)
 - 20:00 Ed Sullivan
- CHANNEL 4**
- 11:30 Strange Voices (1987) (rpt)
 - 13:05 Sailing Stars
 - 13:30 Showbiz
 - 15:10 For the Love of Aaron (1994) - a writer who has had a nervous breakdown refuses to cope with her problems until she is faced with the possibility of losing her son. With Meredith Baxter.
 - 18:45 Perry Mason: The Poison Pen (1990) - a best-selling novelist is murdered. With Raymond Burr
 - 19:20 Tom and Viv (1995) - the love story of T.S. Eliot and his mentally ill British wife, Vivian.
 - 20:25 Nurses on the Line (1993) (rpt)
 - 20:50 News
 - 21:00 The Nature of Things
 - 21:30 West Beach
 - 22:15 Mini series

CABLE

- CHANNEL 8**
- 6:00 Open University
 - 8:05 A Taste of Africa: Ghana
 - 8:35 Travelogue (rpt)
 - 9:00 Cultural Cities of China, part 5 (rpt)
 - 9:55 MSNBC, My England - play by John Osborne and Charles Wood about the life of organist and composer Henry Purcell who was born the year Charles Stuart became king
 - 12:30 Mushrooms
 - 13:30 Small Wonder
 - 14:00 The Nature of the Bush (rpt)
 - 14:00 A New World, Saving the Planet, part 4 (rpt)
 - 14:30 Beyond 2000
 - 15:10 Cousseaux: Calypso's Legend
 - 16:10 Dream Nature
 - 17:00 Open University: Elisabeth Schwarzkopf: Greek Fire; Principles of Good
 - 18:00 Mushrooms
 - 19:00 The Nature of Australia, part 2: Sea Under Capricorn
 - 20:30 A New World, Saving the Planet - part 5
 - 21:00 Eight on Eight
 - 21:30 Cousseaux at 10:00
 - 22:00 Human Nature
 - 22:05 Open University: Russian Civil War: Problems with Journey Through the Solar System
- NBC SUPERCHANNEL**
- 6:00 Travel Xpress
 - 8:30 The Ticket
 - 7:00 VIP
 - 7:30 NBC News
 - 8:00 MSNBC News
 - 8:30 The Today Show
 - 10:00 European Squawk Box
 - 11:00 European Money Watch
 - 12:00 CBS US Squawk Box
 - 13:00 Europe A La Carte
 - 17:00 Wine Cellar
 - 18:00 The Tramp
 - 19:00 National Geographic TV: Clen of the Crocodile
 - 20:00 The Ticket
 - 21:00 Dateline
 - 22:00 Tennis: Seat
 - 23:00 Tonight Show
 - 00:00 Best of Late
- SECOND SHOWING (6)**
- 22:10 Black Moon (French, 1975) - a surreal, dark, and long drives down a long dark road and witnesses very strange things
 - 23:10 The Man with the Golden Arm (1955) - a then-daring film about drug addiction by Otto Preminger. With Frank Sinatra.
- JORDANTV (unconfirmed)**
- 13:00 Holy Koran
 - 13:35 French programs
 - 14:00 Square One TV
 - 14:30 Doghouse
 - 15:00 Album Show
 - 17:10 French programs
 - 18:00 News in French
- JERUSALEM CINEMA**
- 7:30 The Peacemaker (Hebrew dialogue) 5 - 6:30 Double Team-Spew 5, 7, 9, 30
 - 8:30 MORIAH
 - 9:30 ORI
 - 10:30 ORI
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Knesset opens with raucous session

By LIAT COLLINS

The Knesset opened yesterday in a carnival atmosphere, despite calls by Speaker Dan Tichon to preserve decorum and words from both sides on the need to unite.

The opening of the winter session — after a more than three-month recess — was held in the presence of President Ezer Weizman and State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat. The government turned the vote on the prime minister's policy statement into a motion of confidence, to counter the calls by Meretz and Labor for a motion of no-confidence. The motion passed 44 to 36.

The Knesset also voted on a series of concluding statements by faction heads. Haim Ramon

(Labor) later ridiculed Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and the ministers for blindly supporting the statement by Moledet leader Rehavam Ze'evi, which was voted down, which included motions to stop the Oslo process and remove the PLO. Netanyahu and several ministers also supported the concluding statement by the Third Way, which included a clause calling for a national unity government.

Even before Netanyahu took the podium, Haggai Merom (Labor) took the microphone on the floor to call on him to apologize for his statement that the "Left has forgotten what it is to be a Jew."

As Netanyahu started his speech, Labor MKs rose bearing placards saying: "Bibi is dividing

the people," and "I'm a proud Jew." Netanyahu said he was "sorry for the twisted interpretation being given my words" and that he had not meant to question anybody's Jewishness.

Netanyahu called for a "political cease-fire" and said the country should look at the achievements of the past 50 years and to unite together with Diaspora Jewry.

He was constantly heckled and on several occasions accused of incitement.

In between the catcalls, Netanyahu tried to explain his government's policy. He said the Palestinian Authority is still not fulfilling its obligations to fight terror and is using the "revolving door" system of arresting and

releasing terror suspects; allowing Hamas institutions to reopen; refusing to extradite wanted terrorists; and not canceling the Palestinian Covenant.

He called on the coalition to recognize the fact of the Oslo Accords, but stressed that peace depends on the final arrangements. "Anyone who is not interested in a fast track to the permanent arrangements is testifying that he is not interested in true peace but only in getting land and rights to serve as a tool to continue the struggle against us and present us with new demands," Netanyahu said. He added that Israel will not agree to a Palestinian state.

He said Israel wants peace "with those who recognize our need to

live in this land... not a fictitious peace. We won't come and say: 'Take what you want.'

"Regarding Syria and Lebanon, we are interested in reaching a peace treaty based on true security arrangements. This means Syria will not be able to preserve its right to attack Israel under conditions of peace. The North and its water sources must be free of the threat of a surprise attack."

He said the country had inherited a serious budget deficit, but foreign investments are flowing in.

He ended his speech with a plea to the Reform and Conservative Jews "not to ignore the chance for this historic opportunity" to formulate a compromise on the religious issues.

In his speech, Barak stressed his

military past and accused Netanyahu of leading the country to war. Much of his speech was a personal attack on the prime minister. Science Minister Michael Elitzur, Health Minister Yehoshua Matza, and Uzi Landau, chairman of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, mildly heckled him.

He described the change in government as "a political accident," albeit a democratic one. "The State of Israel deserves a different prime minister — more experienced, more responsible, more serious, and older," he said.

He said there are two options: to lead the country to peace and security or to be drawn into another war. Barak also accused Netanyahu of incitement and divisiveness.

PA arrests journalist after torture report

By STEVE RODAN

A Hebron-area journalist and human rights activist has been arrested by Palestinian Authority security agents, following publication of his story that quotes Hamas detainees describing the torture they sustained in Palestinian jails.

Khaled Amayreh, 41, of Dura, was arrested on Sunday by the PA Preventive Security Service, headed by Col. Jibril Rajoub. Amayreh is regarded as one of the few independent Palestinian journalists still working in the West Bank and Gaza and writes for local and international publications.

Bassam Eid, director of the Palestinian Human Rights Monitoring Group, said Amayreh wrote an article for the Umm al-Fahm-based newspaper *Sawt al-Haq* on the torture of Hamas suspects.

Before its publication, Amayreh, a board member of the monitoring group, telephoned Eid and raised the possibility of his eventual arrest.

"He knew there was a chance he would be arrested and he wanted to know that we would stand by him," Eid said. "Palestine needs more brave journalists like Khaled, willing to express their views in the face of suppression."

In the article published by *Sawt al-Haq*, the organ of Israel's Islamic

movement, Amayreh quotes one prisoner, Wa'el Asad as saying: "I was tortured so severely that I called out for God to have mercy on me."

PA court to hear petition against Arafat

The Palestinian High Court of Justice has agreed to hear a petition against Palestinian Authority chairman Yasser Arafat over the detention of a Hamas activist.

A petition by Khader Shkirat to free his client Mahmoud Muslih, a 56-year-old teacher from the Ramallah area, will be heard on November 23. Muslih was detained September 4, and is being held by the General Intelligence Service (GIS).

The decision to hear the case came despite opposition from the PA prosecutor's office, which tried to challenge Shkirat's authority to represent Muslih. Shkirat is general director of LAW, a Palestinian human rights group. Steve Rodan

The interrogator said that if God comes, we will arrest him as well."

Another prisoner, Iyad Imreish, is quoted as describing his session with PA interrogators. "They took off my clothes and made me lie on the floor. They poured cold water on me and started to beat me with a broomstick. When it broke, they brought another one."

Rajoub was at a meeting with PA Chairman Yasser Arafat and was not available for comment last night. But a senior PPS official confirmed the detention of Amayreh and said he is being held for questioning in Jericho.

"He was not arrested," the official said. "He put false information in the newspaper and hurt people as a result."

The official said Amayreh apparently interviewed Hamas detainees in Dahariya prison, south of Hebron. He said the prisoners quoted in the article, however, claim that Amayreh misrepresented them.

"The detainees said what Amayreh wrote was a lie," the official said. "We are now trying to clarify the situation."

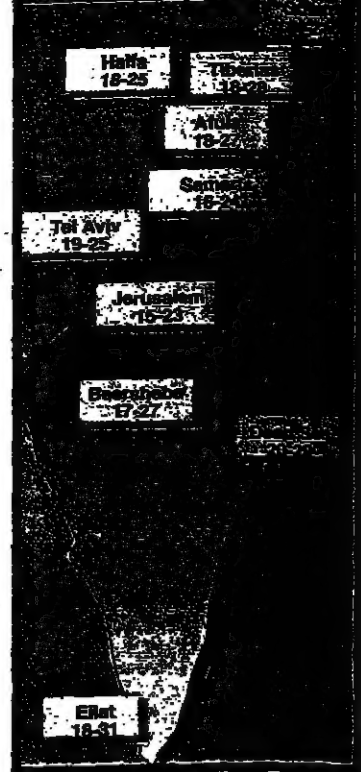
Amayreh, a father of seven, has been harassed by PA security forces since they entered the West Bank. He has been critical of the PA in his column in the Hamas weekly *Al-Risalah* and in interviews with Western media.



Finnish minister begins visit

Foreign Minister David Levy meets in Jerusalem yesterday with his Finnish counterpart, Tarja Kaarina Halonen, here for a three-day visit. Halonen invited Levy to visit Finland but a date was not set.

WEATHER



AROUND THE WORLD

Location	Low	High	Notes
American	42	58	clear
Berlin	42	58	clear
Buenos Aires	17	23	cloudy
Calcutta	24	30	cloudy
Chicago	42	58	cloudy
Copenhagen	42	58	cloudy
Frankfurt	42	58	cloudy
Geneva	42	58	cloudy
Helsinki	42	58	cloudy
Hong Kong	22	28	cloudy
London	42	58	cloudy
Los Angeles	14	20	cloudy
Madrid	13	19	cloudy
Moscow	42	58	cloudy
Mumbai	24	30	cloudy
New York	42	58	cloudy
Paris	42	58	cloudy
Rome	42	58	cloudy
Stockholm	42	58	cloudy
Sydney	19	25	cloudy
Tokyo	42	58	cloudy
Toronto	42	58	cloudy
Vancouver	42	58	cloudy
Zurich	42	58	cloudy

Winning cards

In yesterday's first daily Chance drawing, the winning cards were the king of clubs, the 8 of hearts, the 9 of diamonds, and the 10 of spades.

In the second daily Chance drawing, the winning cards were the ace of clubs, the 9 of hearts, the jack of diamonds, and the king of spades.

Yishai tells Shas: Vote against the budget

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai yesterday recommended that fellow Shas MKs vote against the proposed 1998 budget when it comes to a first vote today, because of proposed cuts in child benefits.

Shas MKs stopped short of adopting the recommendation mainly because their faction meeting was interrupted for consultations on the Conversion Bill issue.

Shas did decide, however, to challenge the budget during Knesset Finance Committee debates.

The budget is also expected to face strong opposition from the Geshet faction which objects to proposed cuts in children allowances.

"It is no secret there are Knesset members who want to increase the defense budget and those who want to increase certain welfare provisions," Finance Minister Yacov Neeman said of the criticism.

He added that the budget's main objective was to restore growth in the economy.

According to the Central Bureau of Statistics the Israeli economy, which grew by an average rate of

5.5 percent from 1990-1996, is expected to show a growth rate of only 2.5% for 1997.

"Considering the economic conditions this is the best and fastest way to achieve growth in the economy," Neeman said, referring to the budget proposal.

Neeman also indicated that changes may be introduced in the final budget draft, which must be approved by January 1.

The NIS 207.4 billion package includes NIS 2.3b. in cuts, including a NIS 430m. cut in the NIS 24.5b. defense budget. The budget proposal aims at

achieving three goals, which could bring more growth:

• Reducing the deficit from 2.8% of gross domestic product in 1997 to 2.4% in 1998.

• Cutting public expenses to 46.3% of the GDP.

• Leaving tax rates unchanged.

Neeman said he objects to tax hikes because the tax burden already amounts to almost 40% of the GDP. Raising taxes would lead to lower production and to higher unemployment, Neeman said.

Liav Collins contributed to this report.

Mordechai: We will stick to Grapes of Wrath

By DAVID RUDGE

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai made it clear yesterday that Israel intends to adhere to the Grapes of Wrath understandings.

He also categorically denied reports in the Hebrew press that he had expressed criticism over the functioning of the IDF in south Lebanon.

Mordechai, who spoke to reporters following a meeting with visiting Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov, praised the soldiers and officers in Northern Command.

The minister visited the northern border on Sunday as part of a general assessment taking place this week of the situation in south Lebanon.

"I didn't hear from anyone among all the officers with whom I spoke [on Sunday] that the Grapes of Wrath understandings should be revoked," Mordechai said.

Uri Lubrani, the government's coordinator on Lebanon, also spoke out yesterday in favor of the understandings reached at the end of Operation Grapes of Wrath last year.

"The understandings have some flaws and in that respect are far from ideal, but on balance they serve the purpose that was agreed upon and the advantages outweigh the disadvantages," Lubrani told *The Jerusalem Post*.

According to recent reports, some senior IDF officers have been critical of the fact that Hizbullah is regularly violating the understandings by firing from inside and alongside villages at IDF and South Lebanese Army targets in the security zone. In such cases, the IDF refrains from responding directly to the origin of the fire for fear of harming innocent civilians.

"I think we have to be very vigorous in our contacts with the monitoring group so that it will do whatever is necessary in order to get the other side to adhere fully to the understandings," said Lubrani.

"We have to find ways of proving our case as clearly and unequivocally as possible and in this way put pressure on Syria and the Lebanese government to ensure that the understandings are upheld."

Regarding the recent public debate over the possibility of an unilateral withdrawal from the security zone, Lubrani said he was "the first one to aspire to leave Lebanon as soon as circumstances permit."

"I know, however, that by withdrawing unilaterally, without any kind of agreement or arrangement, we would be sowing the seeds for a situation to arise that would be much more ominous and much more costly than the present situation," he added.

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Memory and History Holocaust Film Retrospective October 28 - November 4, 1997

Tuesday, Oct. 28 7 p.m. - Opening event: Mephisto (Istvan Szabo)

Wednesday, Oct. 29 5 p.m. - Nanny Girl (Michael Verhoeven)

7 p.m. - Au Revoir Les Enfants (Louis Malle)

9:30 p.m. - Children of the Exodus (Juliane Geick)

Thursday, Oct. 30 5 p.m. - The Pawnbroker (Sidney Lumet)

7 p.m. - Journey into Life (Thomas Mitterlich)

10 p.m. - Those Days in Terezin (Sylvie Scheneman)

Friday, Oct. 31 12 noon - Shosh, Part I (Claude Lanzmann)

Saturday, Nov. 1 12 noon - Shosh, Part II (Claude Lanzmann)

9:30 p.m. - Daddy, Come to the Luna Park (Nitzka Gonen)

Sunday, Nov. 2 5 p.m. - Ladies Tailor (Leonid Gornovets)

7:30 p.m. - Korczak (Andrzej Wajda)

Monday, Nov. 3 5 p.m. - Triumph of the Will (Leni Riefenstahl)

7:30 p.m. - The Jewish Street (Herz Frank)

Tuesday, Nov. 4 5 p.m. - Angry Harvest (Agneszka Holland)

7 p.m. - Weapons of the Spirit (Pierre Sauvage)

For additional information, (02) 672-4131

מכרזן התקופה